

THE JOURNAL

Friday, April 27, 2001

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Inside Volunteers restore neglected portion of Baxter Creek [A3]**Arts** Read any good books lately? Check out our Book Club [C7]

DANNY SCHER sits in his home amphitheater, called Coventry Grove. With the final touches of grass and other shrubs to be put in, the theater will be complete for a planned Parkinson's Disease benefit with Louie Bellson and the Cal State Hayward Big Band on May 20.

Backyard concert plan stirs up controversy

■ Some Kensington neighbors are trying to stop the charity event at Danny Scher's home amphitheater

By Kate Darby Rauch
STAFF WRITER

KENSINGTON — Most houses have a back yard of sorts: a few trees or shrubs and a patio space for summer gatherings.

Danny Scher has all that and something more. Outside his large Kensington home, nestled on a wooded slope facing San Francisco Bay, Scher has a backyard amphitheater that seats about 250 people.

A former bigwig with Bill Graham Productions, Scher, 49, said the theater called out to him when he was house hunting 14 years ago. He wasn't sure then what he would do with the space,

but it stirred his creative juices. Today those stirrings have evolved into a concrete plan to use the serene setting for benefit concerts for his favorite charities.

But that's not all it's stirred up.

Neighbors in the quiet residential community have balked at Scher's intentions, and officials now are scurrying to double-check whether the plan is legal.

Scher expects to hold the first concert May 20, kicking off what he hopes will be regular private benefits featuring well-known musicians. That concert, to benefit the Parkinson's Institute, will feature drummer Louie Bellson, who played with Duke Ellington and Count Basie, among others, and the Cal State Hayward Big Band.

Scher said he chose the Parkinson's Institute as his first

benefit recipient for "personal reasons." Bellson, 76, has the disease.

In preparation, Scher, who now owns his own production company, has begun renovating the amphitheater — rebuilding seats and pathways and adding ground lighting.

Some neighbors embrace the plan as garden parties for a cause. But numerous others do not. The causes may be good, they say, but the events sound too big for the quiet area.

"The biggest concern is really philosophical — do we live in a residential neighborhood or don't we?" said George Kwei, a next-door neighbor who opposes Scher's concert idea.

"Initially we were quite supportive because we wanted to be good neighbors; now the whole project has spread to triple the size. It's much bigger than we originally thought it would be."

They're turning it into a very public neighborhood," Kwei said.

More than 40 residents, including Kwei, signed a petition strongly opposing the operation of the amphitheater" and presented it to the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, a local governing board that acts as a liaison with the county for the unincorporated community of about 5,000.

Parking congestion and noise are the residents' main concerns.

Kwei said he was drawn to the seclusion and tranquility of his narrow road when he bought his house two years ago. "Now it looks like we'll have people right up to the house."

Scher, who is working with county and local officials on approvals for his plan, characterizes the concerts as private soirees, a vehicle for him to do

See CONCERT, Page A8

Albany teacher talks collapse

■ Sides will now submit to a fact-finding process

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Talks between the Albany Teachers Union and the school district broke down Tuesday over a plan to bring teacher salaries up to the Contra Costa and Alameda counties' average over the next three years.

Negotiations have been turned over to the fact-finding process, in which the district's financial position and the union's demands will be investigated, and a settlement recommended by a state mediator.

Both sides say they are interested in trying to reach an agree-

ment through the six- to eight-week process.

A panel of three people, one chosen by the district, one by the union, and a third by the state, will combine efforts in the investigation. If Albany teachers reject the proposal, they will be authorized to vote for a strike.

According to Mike Lenahan, the Alameda County schools associate superintendent of business, fact-finding is unlikely to bring out any new information. Among other possibilities, the process could result in directing the union to accept the board's latest best offer.

Though impossible to guess the outcome, there may be cause for

See TALKS, Page A8

Panel recommends charter change

■ If the City Council approves, voters will decide whether to make the police chief post appointed rather than elected

By Dave Greer
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — An effort to make the police chief's job appointive rather than elective has passed its first hurdle. After two sparsely attended public meetings, the Albany Charter Review Committee voted to recommend to the City Council that the City Charter be changed to make the position of police chief appointive by the City Council.

All charter changes must be voted on by the electorate. If it accepts the committee's recommendation, the council could place the matter on the ballot in this November's election. The committee will report to the council at its regular 8 p.m. on

June 4 in Albany City Hall. Incumbent Police Chief Larry Murdo's decision not to seek re-election in November of 2002 is widely believed to have triggered another attempt to change the manner in which a chief gets his job. Murdo is in his fourth four-year term and has run unopposed the last three times.

The last of four efforts to make the chief's position appointive rather than elective was defeated 3,719 to 2,228 in 1996.

Public input on the matter was taken by the Charter Review Committee at a two-hour, midday meeting Saturday, March 14, and at an evening meeting the following Tuesday. Among those addressing the committee were six former mayors and five members of the Albany Police Department.

About 15 people attended the Saturday meeting in the Albany Community Center. Of those who expressed an opinion to the com-

See CHARTER, Page A10

Regency ends leases of some shops

■ Other stores have been offered spots in a soon-to-be-renovated center, but at much higher rents

By Kate Darby Rauch
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — El Cerrito Plaza owners have ended the rental agreements with many of their longtime tenants, telling the stores they must close by the end of this month or next.

Shop owners — many of whom run mom-and-pop-type businesses — speculate that the changes are being made to make way for new, larger merchants.

The shopping center is undergoing a major renovation, with a host of new businesses slated to open next fall.

Regency Realty, the majority Plaza owner, would not comment on the changes. Tom Engberg, a Regency vice president, said the company is "consolidating," but would not elaborate, citing com-

pany policy against discussing lease deals before they are completed.

"It often feels like we're withholding, when it's simply a policy we have to abide by," Engberg said.

During the past few months, the national real estate company has asked at least half a dozen stores to leave. Most are tenants in the building west of Albertsons grocery store.

Some store owners have been offered new spots at the renovated Plaza, but at rents significantly higher than what they pay now, and more than many can afford. That option also means businesses must be able to remain closed for six months until renovations are finished.

Waldenbooks, the Plaza Barbershop, Beadazzled jewelry store and Larry Parks Ltd. hair salon are among the merchants that will close or move out of the Plaza in the coming weeks.

Others, including Betty's Hallmark, will close next month and re-open in the fall at a new location in the rebuilt center.

Some owners say the changes are simply the normal style of corporate business and that Regency is doing what it takes to build a successful shopping center.

Others complain the real estate giant has not communicated well with Plaza tenants, keeping them in the dark about plans and making last-minute announce-

ments.

"I think it was a rotten deal. Communication was lousy," said Joel Lyon, owner of the Plaza Barbershop, which has been at the center for 43 years and will close next week.

Regency told Lyon it needed his space and offered him a new site at a substantial rent increase, he said.

"It was over 100 percent more than my current lease," he said.

Lyon, 75, decided to hang up his scissors and retire, something he has been wanting to do for a long time anyway.

At Larry Parks salon next door, owner Parks said he has no complaints about negotiations with Regency.

"They have not been unfair to me in any way, shape or form," said Parks, who has been at the Plaza for 10 years.

Regency bought out his lease and he will be moving to Fairmount Avenue in El Cerrito, next to the shop where he launched his business 35 years ago.

Parks does not anticipate the move will hurt him since most of his business is repeat customers who will follow him to the new store.

Patrick Montoya, owner of Plaza Beauty Supplies, said the stores on either side of him have lost their leases and that Regency said it wants to meet with him next week.

See REGENCY, Page A10

Ocean View inaugurates native garden

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Ocean View Elementary School had twice the reason to celebrate Earth Day this week. A native plant garden, formerly on city property, was officially moved to a central location at the school for kids to make it their own.

The students gathered in a sunny courtyard outside Wednesday, taping signs depicting various foliage, so that a member from each class could tell the others what they had planted in the gar-

den and its purpose. One sign read, "Flannel Bush — attracts native bees." Students sang songs to celebrate their surroundings, as well as to promote good treatment of the environment.

"Mother Earth will make you strong if you give her love and care," sang one class.

Originally occupying a plot of land near the Middle School tennis courts, the native garden was moved this year to a space in front of the school library.

"Otherwise, we were going to have to spend a lot of money (on

maintaining it)," explained fifth grade teacher Bridget Priest.

Now, each class has a plot on which to plant its flower of choice. Priest's students made their own planter boxes and opted for tomatoes and basil, while the other fifth grade class planted lavender. As part of the science curriculum, all of the students work on their plants in the native garden and keep journals on their progress.

At the ceremony, special education aid Maggie Owens ad-

See GAREN, Page A9

Plenty of Earth Day projects to dig into

EL CERRITO — Add the local library branch to the list of public places seeking volunteers to help out at Saturday's annual Earth Day celebration/work party.

The El Cerrito Library will kick-off the next phase of its landscaping project that day, working toward its goal of establishing a garden of native vegetation.

Library officials, in fact, say volunteer participation is welcome during all phases of the project, which is expected to continue through the coming year.

Saturday's effort will be to remove existing vegetation (ivy).

To register, call 526-7512 or sign up at the library.

Volunteers should wear old clothing and sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. Shovels would also be helpful.

Public areas all around the city, almost 40 locations in all, will be going native at the 32nd observance, which adds an emphasis on planting native vegetation along with the annual city-wide cleanup theme.

A native planting workshop will be held at the Community Center, where Noah Booker of Shelterbelt Builders will be on-hand to offer advice answer questions. Also available will be

a two-page handout compiled by Louise Lacey of the Native Plant Society (the information is also available online at www.growingnative.com).

Work parties start at 8:30 a.m. at locations around the city and continue until noon.

For their trouble, along with a city more in harmony with its surroundings, volunteers will be given a free barbecue lunch at the Community Center.

To volunteer, contact Janet Ableson at 510-525-7709 or earthday@ci.e-cerrito.ca.us. Or simply show up at the Community Center at 8:30 a.m. to find out which sites can use a helping hand.

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Scoops for Schools

The Albany Education Foundation invites families, friends and neighbors to its annual ice cream social, Scoops for Schools, on Sunday, April 29, from 1-4 p.m. at the Albany Community Center, 1217 Marin Ave. This enjoyable afternoon of music, art and ice cream is AEF's opportunity to thank our donors, volunteers, and grant recipients for all of the wonderful support we receive during the year.

Swing dance, dinner

The Albany Soroptimist and Rotary Clubs are sponsoring a swing dance and dinner extravaganza from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on April 28 at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Ave. in Albany. The event will feature a full course dinner and drinks, live big band music, dance lessons, raffle and silent auction. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for seniors and children, \$60 for a four-ticket family package. All proceeds from the event are used to fund Soroptimist and Rotary community service projects. For more information call Kathy Lee at 524-6300, drop by or purchase tickets at the Albany Adult School, 601 San Gabriel Ave., at Brighton, or contact a friend who is an Albany Soroptimist or Rotarian.

CCCT volunteers

Carpentry/construction volunteers turn raw materials into beautiful sets at Contra Costa Civic Theatre in El Cerrito.

rito. The theater is recruiting Set Construction Directors for one or more shows per year. These volunteers need some construction or home building experience, can read and explain design plans, etc. Also needed are Set Construction Workers with basic home repair skills and a willingness to work as part of an enthusiastic team. Times are flexible. Leave a message for Theater Administrator Beth Cohen at 510-524-6654.

Preschool stories, films

The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., will present a new series of stories and films for preschoolers (ages 3-5), at 11 a.m. on Saturday mornings through June 2.

Relay For Life

Walkers and runners will go around the clock in the battle against cancer during the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Beginning on June 2 at 10 a.m., and ending 24 hours later on Sunday, June 3, at 10 a.m., teams of eight-15 people will gather at El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury Ave. Relay For Life is a family-oriented team event where participants can walk or run relay-style around the track and take part in fun activities when it's not their turn. The public is invited to attend the luminary ceremony, which will take place that Saturday at 8:26 p.m. The track is surrounded with luminarias, as participants remember loved-ones.

Focus on Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay

ROXANNE WILEY
Albany Chamber

Our newest member deals with a problem disease that can or does affect all of us at some time or another. Currently a family member of mine is suffering a form of dementia. It is a sad, debilitating disease that takes its toll on both the caregivers and the participant.

Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay (ASEB) provides two day-care centers for people with some form of dementia. The centers provide for the participant a daily program that is safe and enjoyable providing meals, exercise, health monitoring, and activities. The very capable staff, full time social workers Michael Pope and Patricia Wilson, also provides workshops for anyone who may need direction dealing with the ramifications of this disease. The next one is Thursday, May 17.

I visited the Berkeley center (the other one is in Hayward), and was very impressed with the activities there. The center offers transportation for the participant to and from, and from the moment the participants enter, there is a plethora of activities run by Sammy Hassan, program specialist, that help keep them active and physically involved. Some folks come daily and others one or two days a week, offering a respite for the caregiver. There is one staff member to every five participants.

One activity for the participants is art. You would be truly amazed at the artwork produced by these people. And to that end, the ASEB hosts a huge fundraiser and auctions these lovely pieces. Framers volunteer to frame these gems, and the result is truly wonderful.

The big event is scheduled for Thursday, May 3, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., hosted by none other than Dennis Richmond of KTVU, Channel 2 fame with honored



SOCIAL WORKERS Michael Pope and Patricia Wilson of Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay.

guest Senator Don Perata. The auction provides some of the funding necessary to operate. As you well may imagine, fund-raising is an on-going necessity.

Do put this event on your calendar, bring your checkbook, and enjoy the live and silent auctions, music, wine and hors d'oeuvres. The center is located at 2320 Channing Way in Berkeley; parking is available in the lot next door.

If you have any questions, call 510-644-8292.

May Is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Rhoda Agin, who specializes in voice, speech and orofacial problems for Communication Associates, reminds us that May is dedicated to the various problems of speech, language and hearing disorders that concern both adults and children.

If you or a loved one suffer from any of these disorders, now is the time to act. For information, call either Dr. Agin at 510-549-1359 or the American

Speech-Language-Hearing Association at 800-638-8255.

Citizens of the Year

The Chamber is taking nominations for Citizen and Youth of the Year awards. Call me at 510-525-1771 for nomination forms or information.

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who were lost to cancer and honor survivors. Luminaries can be purchased for a donation by calling Cynthia Shane-Smith at 925-934-7640 or by e-mailing cynthia.shane-smith@cancer.org. Registration forms and information about the Albany-Berkeley-El Cerrito Relay For Life can also be obtained from Cynthia Shane-Smith, local chairperson Janice Jordan at 525-2608, or by calling the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345.

ABGSL golf scramble

The Albany Berkeley Girls Softball League hosts its first Softball Scramble Golf Tournament on Friday, May 11 at Tilden Park Golf Course to raise funds to develop a softball field at Longfellow School in Berkeley. Serving over 200 girls each season for 19 years, ABGSL is an all-volunteer league that organizes softball teams open to all girls in 1st through 9th grade. The League emphasizes sound skill development, fun, and participation for every player, regardless of skill or previous experience. ABGSL is requesting \$100 for a hole sponsorship. Smaller cash donations, which can be designated to purchase items for the raffle, are also welcome. Participation in the tournament costs \$125 per person and includes green fees, cart, box lunch, barbecue dinner, and raffle prizes. Details: 510-525-0199.

POLICE REPORTS

Man makes off with \$300, car wax

EL CERRITO — The evening of April 17, a man simulating a handgun stole about \$300 in cash and two cans of car wax from a house on San Pablo and Potrero avenues in a 35 mph zone.

Employees told police he entered the store around 7 p.m., left, and then returned several times, first asking for car wax and then to use the bathroom. When he demanded that a cashier open the register and give him all the money, the employee started to laugh, thinking it was a prank.

The robber reportedly said, "Stop laughing, it's serious." The cashier then gave him the money and cans in a white plastic Kraken bag. The man was last seen running westbound through the parking lot.

A transient was arrested Monday afternoon for allegedly stealing a U-Haul truck on the 3200 block of Santa Clara Avenue. It was nabbed after a man who had rented the truck left it running while he picked up his friend. Officer Jerry Shaman followed the suspect north on San Mateo Avenue and east on Sutter Avenue, making the arrest at 12:45 p.m.

■ Around 3:30 a.m. on April 7,

a 40-year-old San Francisco man was given a DUI after he was stopped for allegedly driving 55 miles per hour at San Pablo and Potrero avenues in a 35 mph zone.

An hour earlier, a 26-year-old man was arrested for driving drunk near San Pablo Avenue and Moeser Lane. In addition, three other men, 44, 26 and 30, were issued DUIs last week.

■ The night of April 10, a young man was arrested after he was found driving a blue Toyota Camry that was reported stolen earlier this month. The suspect fled on foot on the 11600 block of San Pablo, but was found after reporting officers three passengers in the car. The car was returned to its owner in Vallejo.

■ A 14-year-old El Cerrito girl told police that her father slapped her after she dumped a plate of food on him during an argument. No arrest has been made.

■ The night of April 10, about \$50 worth of tools were allegedly stolen from a Honda Accord on the 6500 block of Donal Avenue.

■ A 20-year-old man was arrested after attempting to cash a stolen check at California Check

Cashing at 10394 San Pablo Ave. the afternoon of April 11.

■ Between 6:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on April 11, nearly \$6,000 worth of property was stolen from a home on the 1600 block of Lexington Avenue. The same day, a barbecue grill was allegedly stolen from another nearby residence, but police have not determined if the two incidents were related.

■ Two Richmond women, ages 30 and 36, were arrested on April 14 after a methamphetamine lab was allegedly found in their car during a traffic stop. Officer Jose Barrueto said he stopped the women around 6:45 a.m. for failing to stop at a stop sign at Arlington Boulevard and Barrett Avenue. Neither suspect was carrying identification, and a check revealed that the driver was driving on a suspended license. A search of the car was later conducted before it was impounded, revealing a disassembled lab, partially processed meth and some stolen mail.

■ At about midnight on April 14, the owner of a business contacted the 33-year-old Richmond man and arrested him for vandalism, battery and assault with a deadly weapon.

■ On the afternoon of April 18, officers investigating a report of an abandoned car located a green '93 Saturn on the 900 block of Pierce Street reported as stolen from Richmond.

■ Shortly after midnight on April 19, officers stopped a white '87 Dodge Caravan for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 21-year-old Albany man, was found to have an outstanding warrant from Contra Costa County for drunk driving and was arrested.

■ At about 2 a.m. on April 19, officers responded to the 600 block of Neilson Street on reports of juveniles with paint guns shooting at cars and houses. Officers located three boys in possession of sling shots and paint pellets the same color paint as that splattered on a car and porch. The sling shots and paint pellets were confiscated, and the boys were admonished regarding their actions.

■ At about 12:30 p.m. on April 17, officers responded to a restaurant on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue and was to be intoxicated and was arrested.

■ On the evening of April 16, officers responded to the 600 block of Neilson Street on reports of juveniles with paint guns shooting at cars and houses. Officers located three boys in possession of sling shots and paint pellets the same color paint as that splattered on a car and porch. The sling shots and paint pellets were confiscated, and the boys were admonished regarding their actions.

■ At about 1 a.m. on April 19, a resident on the 900 block of Castro Street reported that thieves had stolen her gold '89 Honda Accord.

■ At 11:15 p.m. on April 20, a resident at 535 Pierce Street reported that vandals in a dark colored '70s model car had thrown eggs at her house.

During the week of April 21, officers towed four vehicles, responded to nine false alarms, attended to eight lost or deceased animals, assisted five people locked out of their house or car and responded to two reports of barking dogs.

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OBITUARY

Samuel Elkind, 81

Samuel Elkind, passed away at his home in El Cerrito on Sunday, April 22. He was 81. A well-known and treasured teacher, educator and theater director, known as Dr. Sam by his students, he first taught drama at El Cerrito High School for 15 years and was a professor of theater arts at San Francisco State University for over 20 years. He will be missed by family, friends, former students, and the theater community.



He was born in New York in 1919, and moved with his parents to San Francisco at the age of 2. He attended Lowell High School and San Francisco State University, and served in the U.S. Army stateside and in the Pacific during and after World War II, where he honed his writing and direction skills in the Special Services Unit. During his Army days, Mr. Elkind formed friendships with musicians, writers, artists, and performers that lasted a lifetime.

As a young man he began playing piano and developed a love of music, especially jazz. He played for his pleasure and the enjoyment of others throughout his life. He loved to tell stories and jokes and never minded repeating them.

After brief forays into advertising and broadcasting, he began his teaching career, first at Roosevelt Junior High School in Richmond and then at El Cerrito High, where he directed many extraordinary student productions and built mentoring relationships and friendships which lasted his entire life.

Mr. Elkind received his doctorate from Columbia University in 1963, and began his career as a professor at San Francisco State in 1967. He was a teacher, mentor, and friend to thousands of students. Some of his students participated in theater for only a brief interlude. Others made the performing arts their life's pursuit. As a tribute to his skills as a teacher, many former students who became drama teachers or actors cite his influence as an inspiration. It was a special thrill for him that his three grandchildren shared his enthusiasm for the theater.

His professional leadership positions included serving as president of the California Educational Theater Association; Fel-

low, National Endowment for the Humanities, representative to the United States National Commission for UNESCO; director of the London Summer and Winter Theater Programs; program director of the Summer Program in Theater, Centre for Creative Arts, Athens, Greece, and memberships in the Association of Drama Educators; Commission on Theater Education; American Theater Association, and consultant for the State of California Department of Education Fine Arts and Humanities Commission. His books of scenes for young actors were used in the training of high school theater students nationwide.

He was active in the Jewish community in education, acting as a consultant for the Bureau of Jewish Education, San Francisco, Temple Sinai, Oakland, Temple Sherith Israel and Temple Emmanuel, San Francisco; and was an active member of Temple Beth Hillel in Richmond for 50 years.

He is survived by Betty, his wife, wife of 54 years; daughters Susie Elkind and Risa Elkind Nye, son-in-law Bruce Nye, grandchildren Caitlin, Myles and James Nye, all of Oakland; brother and sister-in-law Charles and Rosemarie Elkind of Manhattan Beach; sister Ruth Passen of San Francisco; and his nephew and nieces and grand-nieces and grand-nephews of California and Hawaii.

Friends are invited to celebrate his life at noon today at Temple Beth Hillel, 801 Park Central, Richmond. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1710 Gilbreth Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or American Diabetes Association, 1900 Powell St., Suite 285, Emeryville, CA 94608-1897.

By Suzanne Pardington

STAFF WRITER

RICHMOND — Ray, Alex, Sheelie, Michael and Nina swam to freedom in the clear, still water of a newly restored stretch of Baxter Creek on Saturday.

The five tiny tree frogs — raised by second-graders at Stege Elementary School — quickly scattered among the stream's muddy rocks and grassy banks in Booker T. Anderson Jr. Park.

"Mine is gone," said 8-year-old Marquita Ganley when she lost sight of her frog.

It was a homecoming for the frogs, the first of many environmental and community groups hope to foster by returning urban creeks to their natural state.

Often mistaken for ditches, the creeks have been straightened, lined with concrete or buried in storm drains during the past few decades, losing appeal to the animals and plants that once called them home.

As volunteers put the finishing touches on a yearlong project to restore the once-neglected section of Baxter Creek on Saturday, the Urban Creek Council plans to take on two more creek projects in West County.

The Berkeley-based nonprofit organization hopes to work with community groups and government agencies to protect and restore Rheem Creek in Richmond

and Pinole Creek, which runs through historic Pinole.

Joe Mariotti, a founder of the fledgling Friends of the Pinole Creek Watershed, said the Creek was routed into a channel in 1965 to prevent flooding.

"It looks like a huge drainage ditch that's overgrown, and that's exactly what it is," he said.

Mariotti, who lives next to the mouth of the creek, said the group wants to make the creek look as natural as possible, with gentle curves and trees growing along its banks. "The creek is a beautiful amenity to our community," he said. "We should preserve it and keep it as natural as we possibly can so we can enjoy it."

In Richmond, the creek council hopes to ensure Rheem Creek doesn't fall victim to development planned nearby, as creeks often did in growth booms of the 1960s.

"We're trying to stop the bad things before they happen," said Josh Bradt, director of the Urban Creeks Council.

Saturday's event drew about 50 neighbors, volunteers, politicians and city officials to pick up trash, spread mulch and pull weeds along the banks of Baxter Creek. The event capped a year of work, including tearing out the concrete banks, redirecting the water flow into pools and meanders, and planting



VOLUNTEERS CLEAN garbage out of the section of Baxter Creek in Richmond's Booker T. Anderson Jr. Park on Saturday.

about 100 trees and shrubs.

Stege students have helped clean up the creek, plant wildflowers and survey the community on the types of runoff, pollution and garbage that flow into the creek.

The second-graders are raising tree frogs from tadpoles to boost the creek's frog population. The creek was dammed for a frog farm at the end of the 19th century.

The Friends of Baxter Creek, a community group working with the Urban Creeks Council, hopes to restore other sections of the creek as well, from its origins in the springs beneath the

Mira Vista golf course in El Cerrito to the Bay. They hope frogs, fish and insects will thrive in the new habitat and the creek will become a place for family gatherings, community activities and school projects.

Councilwoman Irma Anderson, whose children used to bring home tadpoles from the creek in the 1960s, said she hopes the Stege children will protect the creek as they grow up. "I see it as a part of the plan to revitalize the community," she said. "If it looks and feels beautiful, more people come out and enjoy it."

IN BRIEF

Teen Operator song contest returns

\$200 and third place \$150.

AUBURN — The police department's teen driving program is holding its annual traffic-safety songwriting contest. Middle and high school students statewide are eligible to enter the contest seeking original songs or raps that promote safe driving among teens.

The winner gets \$300, and will have his or her song recorded on a compact disc. Second place wins

To enter, students should submit a song on a tape cassette and provide the lyrics on a separate piece of paper. Songs must be no longer than three and one half minutes. Background music is not required. Contest entries must be received by May 1.

Send tapes to: Chief Operator Program, Albany Police Department, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, CA 94706. For more information, call the program at 510-528-5701.

CCCT sets auditions for 'West Side Story'

EL CERRITO — Contra Costa Civic Theatre announces open auditions for its summer musical, "West Side Story," at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, May 9-10, at the theater, 951 Pomona Ave. No appointments are necessary and there is no pay.

There are parts for men and women in an age range of 14 or 15 to early 20s, plus roles for four adult men. All parts are open. Participants should prepare a short song and come dressed to dance. Bring sheet music in your key; an accompanist is provided.

This is a non-Equity production. Visit www.ccct.org or call 510-524-9132.

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Opinion

Local artist Tyler Hoare plans unusual exhibit

Tyler Hoare, local artist and master illusionist, will hold an exhibit of his sculptures and collages starting next week in Berkeley. Tyler is best known as the creator of the Red Baron triplane that perched on a post south of the Berkeley Marina and delighted passing motorists for years as Mother Nature slowly shot it down to a monoplane.

Although Tyler's best known works were inspired by other World War I aircraft that appeared to be flying out of the Bay, over the years he created and moored off shore many larger and more elaborate illusions. These included an 18-foot Chinese junk, a Viking long boat, a pirate ship, King Tut's Ship of the Nile, and what appeared to be a 56-foot submarine that surfaced and submerged with the tide.

Unfortunately, the tides, choppy seas, and high winds of San Francisco Bay made the appearances of most of these wondrous creations fairly brief. Tyler's last major illusion came in 1995 when he crafted a flying saucer complete with battery powered flashing lights and an extraterrestrial pilot in the bubble cockpit. Vandals sealed the fate of the UFO as they did many of his other works, something he accepts with good humor resignation.

The new exhibit opens next Thursday, May 3 at The Albatross Pub at 1822 San Pablo Ave. in Berkeley and runs through June 27. While it showcases another aspect of the artist's conception than that displayed in the Bay, some of these works are also assembled from things found on beaches or just about anywhere. Your junk could become part of Tyler's art, particularly if you left it around the waterfront.

Tyler considers himself in the grand tradition of the "ash can school of art," which inspired the "mudflats" artists and their captivating creations on the Emeryville flats. A trained, professional sculptor, he carried these basic concepts to a higher level. All but one of the 33 pieces that will be in the exhibit are smaller than his Bay exhibits since they are designed to live indoors. They are also generally less recognizable than previously existing forms.

The largest piece in the show is one of the life sized "post people" that Tyler displays on old pilings off Chevy's Fresh Mex Restaurant in Emeryville. These odd and intriguing figures have been looming out of the Bay fog for many years. Tyler says there are eight of them out currently, and he plans to add a few more.

The post person going in the show is a female figure well over six feet tall. With the sheen of gold under her bronze exterior and a headdress reminiscent of an Egyptian queen, she seems both regal and seductive. But that may be just the way I experience her; Tyler's works frequently evoke widely differing feelings and impressions.

The bearded artist, whose studio is in Albany, likes to recycle parts of his works that go into the Bay and wash up again well weathered. He found the figure-head from his King Tut ship after waves, sand, and wind had further sculpted it. It will be on display with 15 masks made of driftwood.

These works, and the 13 framed, two-dimensional collages, do not shout for our attention. And yet, like all good art, they somehow elicit it. While the novelty of the materials may in some cases explain our original attraction to a work, that soon wears off as we fall under its strange spell. And over time the piece does not fade into the background or become boring as it never fully reveals its inner core.

The Albatross, on San Pablo Avenue near the corner of Hearst Avenue, is open Sunday through Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. and other days from 4:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. It is a friendly pub that exhibits art and has good recorded and live music of various kinds. Patrons also throw darts, shoot pool, and enjoy the free popcorn.

Tyler plans a party with refreshments and live music from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on June 9. This is a rare opportunity to meet the talented and personable man who has brought so much charm and wonder to life in the Bay Area. I'll see you there.

CITY PONDERS PATHOGEN: Street trees are the crowning glory of a city, but only if it plants the right trees. Albany has a long history of planting trees, some



DAVE GREER
Man About Town

that worked out well and some that didn't. Community Development Associate Judy Lieberman is now working hard to make sure that the trees proposed for San Pablo Avenue fall into the crowning glory category.

The City Council recently adopted Phase 1 of a (roughly) \$2 million San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Master Plan that includes funds for street trees. At the end of last week in Berkeley, Lieberman submitted an application for a grant of \$1,928,000 to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Albany will put up \$275,000 in matching funds.

Seven trees are planned for San Pablo Avenue at a cost of \$700 each. This includes the price of the tree with most of the cost in installation involving sidewalk work and tree wells.

Given a choice between sycamore trees and Eastern red oaks, the council opted for the latter. Not only do they turn pretty colors, but they would signal an entrance to Albany from Berkeley or El Cerrito where sycamores are planted. As Albany has many sycamores on Marin Avenue, it would provide visual variety. Variety is also beneficial if one species of tree is afflicted with a disease.

And a mysterious microbe suddenly spread Oak Death phytophthora has struck a number of oaks in California threatening to wipe out oak woodlands. Species affected include the Shreve's, black, and coast live oaks. Thousands of these trees have died along a 190 mile of the coast between Monterey and Sonoma counties. Although in the same red oak group as these trees, the Eastern red oak tentatively chosen by Albany, has not been reported affected.

However, Matteo Garbelotto, a UC Berkeley forest pathologist, has warned that the disease might spread so that, "We could eventually have an endless list of hosts." The phytophthora that causes the disease has been around a long time and is the same type as the organism that caused the Irish potato blight and the ongoing infection of Port Orford cedars in the Northwest. It has been found in wild huckleberry bushes in Marin County and in nursery rhododendron plants in Europe and Santa Cruz County.

Experts fear the pathogen, which moves through soil and rainwater, may spread to related berry plants, madrone, manzanita, and even other trees such as Douglas fir or redwoods. Scientists working on a counter to the wily killer have made some headway, but they have a long way yet to go.

Albany's Judy Lieberman told me she is keeping a close eye on all these developments. The council's selection of the red oaks came with the caveat that there be a careful reassessment of the "appropriateness of the species" in light of the sudden death striking other oaks.

Lieberman says she anticipates going back to the council with a report on this prior to any action being taken. The trees will not be going in until 2003, and the risk, if any, of planting this species should be better known by then. Anybody having new information on this subject may contact her at the Planning Department in City Hall.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THIS INTRIGUING, life size sculpture is part of an exhibit by local artist Tyler Hoare

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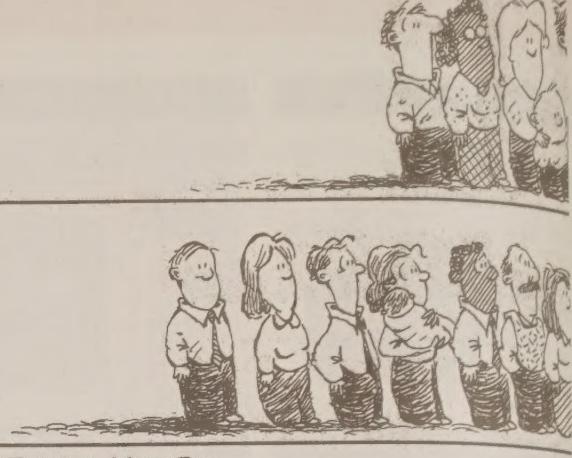
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Community support brings new chairs to music room

Portola Middle School's music department has had a successful musical chair fund-raising attempt. Over 65 new plastic chairs for the music room have replaced broken and old metal chairs. This successful fundraising event was only made possible by the community members and Portola families.

Wonderful notes with the checks came from community members saying what an influence music in school had been in their lives. The Portola Music Parents' Association would like to publicly thank all the members of the community for their overwhelming support.

Joann Steck-Bayat

Portola Musical Parents Association

Control traffic on Santa Fe Avenue

I am a parent of a Marin School third grader. I live on the Albany Hill and drive my daughter to school at Marin each morning. I am writing to express my extreme concern for the safety of children who walk to school and/or cross at any intersection near Marin Avenue.

The section of Santa Fe Avenue that runs directly in front of Marin School is particularly dangerous and frightening. The traffic congestion and impatience of speeding motorists is totally out of control. Some measures must be taken to slow the traffic and increase motorists' awareness that they are in school zones. It would be a tragic testimony to Albany's casual attitude toward safety if we wait until a child has been hit and killed before action is taken. It will happen, too; the escalating carelessness of drivers, coupled with the school's location at a busy intersection, cannot help but have tragic consequences.

Although as many as three crossing guards are stationed around Marin School, they too are at risk from drivers drinking coffee, talking on phones and speeding around parents dropping off school children in a marked loading zone.

These motorists seem totally disconnected from their time and place; they barrel down Santa Fe at 8 a.m. at speeds well in excess of 25 mph, without any apparent awareness that they have entered a school zone. They blare their horns at parents attempting to unload children and stop inches short of crosswalks, glaring at children to hurry up. These people need a reality check, and they need it from the law. It is a school zone.

Speed bumps on Santa Fe are a wonderful idea. They would force drivers to slow down and take notice of their position. Additionally, the school and surrounding area needs much better speed limit signs. When I called the police department to express my concern about renegade, thoughtless motorists roaring down Marin Avenue, the woman who an-

sawed did not even know the speed limit on Marin. Speed limit signs must be posted and they must be visible. Perhaps Marin Avenue needs lighted signs and additional signals at intersections near the schools. It seems an extreme measure, but motorists have simply got to understand that whatever their personal morning urgency is, it cannot be more important than the safety of school children. This is Albany. As a community, we must not tolerate reckless behavior on the road.

I urge the City Council to address this critical issue before it comes to them with a report of a fatality.

Lisa Calef
Albany

Tainted system

We have sent a letter to Assemblywoman Dion Aroner and wish to bring this legislation to the attention of our community.

As Aroner's constituents, we urge her to co-sponsor legislation that would stop wrongful executions and address the problems that exist in the current capital punishment system. In the last Congress, SB 2463, the National Death Penalty Moratorium Act of 2000, was introduced to do just that.

Many facts lead us to believe that the whole system of state-sanctioned executions is tainted and desperately needs to be reassessed, e.g., the relationships between the death penalty and poverty, the death penalty and race, and the death penalty and geography.

We urge the halt to all executions until the inequities are addressed.

William Noel
El Cerrito

This letter was also signed by 29 others who attend Northminster Presbyterian Church in El Cerrito.

Let's put on a show

In the movies, "Let's put on a show" was the answer to many of life's problems.

Today, there are no simple solutions to society's ills. So, what about putting on a show with children? Sign-ups are easy. No one has to be the biggest or the best to perform, build props, create scenery or blend into the chorus. It's not an athletic competition, only for a select few to excel. It's where Tom Cruise, Shawna Colvin, Bette Midler, Patrick Swayze and others say they learned about the real world.

This week, Harriet and Jim Schlader of Oakland's Woodminster Summer Musicals, a member of the National Alliance of Musical Theaters, will be in San Diego to experience how American musical theater can transform children's lives.

There are few distinctly American forms of entertainment, and musical theater is one of them. At each performance, the audience is introduced to characters

and their given circumstances — their situation, where they live, what they dream, and what obstacles they face. Shows such as "Annie" (addressing child abuse and economic hardships), "Guys and Dolls" (gangs) and "Fiddler on the Roof" (immigrants and cultural differences) illustrate the American experience. That's one reason Woodminster Summer Musicals is being challenged to become a mentor and work with local children to enhance your community.

Everyone wants a way to teach kids about responsibility, teamwork, friendship, being on time, courtesy and other basic life skills. A program called Broadway Junior adapts great American musicals ("Annie Junior," "Guys and Dolls Junior," "Schoolhouse Rock Junior," "Fiddler on the Roof Junior," "Into the Woods Junior," "Once On This Island Junior" and "Bugsy Malone Junior") so that children can perform them. After the Columbine High School tragedy, a Middle School teacher in Columbine, Colorado, presented "Bugsy Malone Junior" to help students cope by giving them a safe environment where they could act out their fears and discuss them openly.

Our foundation, Broadway Junior, works in many communities with educators, parents and the theater community in order to better prepare children to live in a community, as part of society, exposing them to the magic of stage and "the art of life." This month marks our 5,000th production in the past three years, involving more than 20,000 schools and millions of students across the country.

The area has children who could benefit from the life-enhancing experience the offers, and Woodminster Summer Musicals is exploring cutting edge programs that will bring these benefits to our young people. But in order to succeed, community support is needed. Take a child to a live theatrical event, enroll them in a theater class, a dance class, or music lessons, explore mentorship programs, and encourage schools to embrace the arts. And remember, theater teaches kids the most important art of all, the art of living.

Freddie Gershon
Chairman
Broadway Junior

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

This neighborhood deserves an A for taking care of bees

They were homeless, they were strange-looking, and some people thought they might be dangerous. But the neighbors took pity on them and took them in anyway. And now they're awfully glad they did.

I'm talking about a swarm of honeybees that landed last Friday on a branch at Halcyon Commons, a small, neighborhood-built park in south Berkeley.

Some people were apprehensive at first. After all, we've all been brought up to hate and fear little beasts that go bump in the night. (Think of all the movies that have reinforced this fear from "Them!" to "The Birds.") And bees do sting.

But the neighbors soon realized that far from intending any harm, the bees were actually gentle and non-aggressive. And they were in peril unless somebody came to their aid.

"They were just in the park temporarily while scouting out a good place to build their Queen Bee her hive," explains Nancy Carleton, one of the residents in the neighborhood. "Our fear was that they'd pick a site that was inappropriate from the point of view of whoever 'owns' the property, and the owner might call an exterminator to kill them. So we decided to direct them to a yard where they would be truly welcome."

That turned out to be the back yard of 14-year-old Kay Wicinas, a freshman at Berkeley High who is rapidly becoming Fairy Godmother to the bees. With help from friends and neighbors like Carleton (plus a big assist from Leo Thomas, an Oakland beekeeper who provided the expertise), Kay and her dad Bruce quickly built a hive in their yard and moved the swarm into it.

But the next morning brought heartbreak: When Kay went to the back yard to check on her new charges, she found dozens of dead bees lying on the ground around the hive.

"There were bodies everywhere," she says. "I tried to help the ones who were still alive by lifting them up and placing them closer to the hive, but the other bees kept pushing them away. It was so sad."

But it was all part of Nature's plan. It turns out that honeybees have a very short life-span: two or three weeks at the most. What



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

Kay saw was perfectly normal.

In fact, the hive is thriving — with a little help from its new human friends. "Caring for them is a bit more labor-intensive than I'd thought," says Kay's dad, Bruce. "For instance, they don't always build the honeycombs properly. They have to be taught."

Taught? Yes. If they build the comb crooked, with a bulge, you have to go into the hive and cut out the bulge. Eventually, they learn. But some hives learn faster than others."

Now, this may sound like outrageous anthropomorphizing to you, but there's strong scientific evidence to back it up. According to a fascinating article in the Chronicle last week, French researchers have discovered that bees excel at performing cognitive tasks formerly thought to be the exclusive province of humans and apes.

At last report, the bees were settling comfortably into their new home. "They're busy at work building honeycombs," says Kay. "In a few months, we should be getting honey."

But the bees have already given the neighborhood something far more valuable.

"They've changed the whole feeling around here," says neighborhood resident Susan Hunter. "Right away, they brought a sense of harmony and good cheer to the neighborhood. They've taught us that nature's creatures are not something to be feared, even if they look strange at first. We're thrilled and relieved they've found a long-term home in our neighborhood."

By the way, Leo Thomas, the Oakland beekeeper who has so generously been lending the neighbors at Halcyon Commons his expertise, tells me the honey around here hasn't been the same since the Oakland Hills fire.

"Before the fire, I used to get honey in practically all colors of

the spectrum, from champagne to bright red, believe it or not," he says. "Now all I get is pale yellow. It's still good, but I miss the old variety."

Speaking of insects — how's that for a segue? — everyone's favorite cockroach is making a comeback in Point Richmond.

I'm speaking, of course, of the immortal archy, the poetic protagonist of Don Marquis' classic human tales, "archy and mehitabel." (mehitabel is archy's muse, an alley cat who is "toujours gal.") Their names are never capitalized because the cockroach archy composes the narrative by diving headfirst onto the typewriter keys, and he can't hold down the shift key at the same time.)

The whole thing was turned into a musical in the 1950s (book by Mel Brooks, yet) starring Eddie Bracken as archy and Eartha Kitt as mehitabel. And that's what's being presented at the Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond through May 12.

I saw the matinee last Sunday, and it confirms my long-held opinion that there is more underpaid performing talent here in the Bay Area than anywhere else in the world. The entire cast is first-rate. In any other town, they'd be making big bucks, rather than contributing their talents.

I'm not trying to single out the Masquers Playhouse. This unfortunate state of affairs is true at practically every theater company I can think of, including my beloved Lamplighters. What with all the other costs — including script, lighting, and rental of the hall — there's simply no money left over for the actors, unless you want to jack the ticket prices up so high that only fat cats can afford them. Of course, there's another option: public funding.

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But except for the Berkeley Rep, few theater groups around here get any public money. Which means our ability to see live theater is solely due to the generosity of the actors themselves, who, in effect, are subsidizing our enjoyment.

For all our claims to sophistication, the truth is that we here in the Bay Area are as provincial as Lodi or Stockton.

But, like archy, I digress. Back to the play: Kudos to all, especially Shay Oglesby-Smith, whose star turn as mehitabel comes as no surprise to those who are familiar with her recent triumphs in "Crazy For You" and "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" at the Contra Costa Community Theater.

And a special bouquet to chorus member Susannah M. Scott, who is a terrific alley cat (in Act I) and ladybug (in Act II).

And in her day job, she's one of those delightful young counter clerks at Nabob Bakery in Berkeley who always selects the gooiest cinnamon twists for me.

Another member of my cinnamon twist cadre is Mejia Reese. She, too, is an experienced thespian, currently appearing as Princess Sapphire in the Hillside Players' performance of "The Pirate Prince." (She also made the costumes.)

Its last performance will be this Sunday at the Hillside Club, corner of Cedar and Arch in Berkeley, at 7 p.m. Admission is free, and it's G-rated, so feel free to bring the kids.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039 or e-mail him at catman@california.com.

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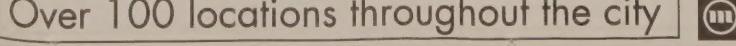
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Concert

FROM PAGE A1

good things with music. They're not that much different than the birthday parties and political fund-raisers he's held on the stage for years, he said. "I'll be doing what I've been doing since 1988," said Scher, who envisions three or four concerts a year, held mostly on weekend days, with low-level amplification. Events will last a few hours and include a reception. Tickets won't be cheap.

He's working on a plan to have guests shuttled from school or UC Berkeley parking lots. In his mind, they're small gatherings. "This is not a party house," he said.

Scher credits Bill Graham, who promoted numerous big benefit

concerts before he died in 1991, with fueling his interest in musical fund-raisers. Scher worked as a vice president with Graham's promotions company for 24 years. "The best experiences I ever had (with Graham), the ones that have the best memories, are the benefit concerts. When the musicians were playing for something that really meant something to them, rather than just the money, they seemed to put out more," Scher said.

Louise Klein, 89, grew up in Scher's Kensington house and now lives directly uphill from the 1-acre property. She said the amphitheater was built by her father, UC Berkeley chemist Joel Hildebrand, largely as a place for her to dance as a child. She considers Scher's plan harmless and said she'd much rather have her old yard used for

concerts than subdivided and sold for new homes.

"He's made it a more formal affair, but he's still carrying on the spirit of the way it began," Klein said.

But Jim Carmen, head of the town's advisory council, said Klein's opinion was the minority at a February meeting at which the amphitheater was discussed.

Most of those who attended the standing-room-only meeting protested the plan and called for more official scrutiny and oversight, he said. "This is not something that has neighborhood support. This was a very hostile meeting," Carmen said.

The council and county Supervisor John Gioia have asked county lawyers to look into the situation.

The county doesn't have an or-

dinance covering residential concerts, said Gioia.

But if Scher is operating a business, albeit a nonprofit business, he may need a special county permit, Gioia said, adding that lawyers for the county are looking into the question.

"It's an issue that has to be resolved. The neighbors and the promoter have a right to know what he can and can't do," Gioia said.

Meanwhile, county planners, who were contacted by Scher before he started work on the amphitheater, still are reviewing the case. They've approved the amphitheater renovations as a landscaping project and also are investigating how it can be used.

The Kensington Police Department, also contacted by Scher, helped him apply for a one-day li-

cense to sell alcoholic beverages for the May concert, considering it a routine matter.

Chief Barry Garfield said he finds nothing illegal about holding the event.

Talks

FROM PAGE 1

optimism in Albany, he added, saying, "It is not unusual for parties to settle between mediation and

fact-finding."

But tensions were heightened last week when the California Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) charged the district with violating the rights of ATA to represent its members and failing to

bargain in good faith.

Part of the initial tentative agreement reached last July stated that new hires in the district would alleviate prep time for fourth and fifth grade teachers. In return, the seventh grade would be extended

by a period at the middle school, meaning some teachers added a prep period to their work schedule last fall.

The ATA alleges that one part

See TALKS, Page A9



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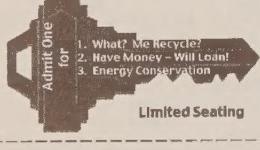
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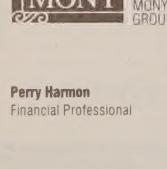
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Talks

FROM PAGE 1

of the agreement was enforced without the other, when the work day was extended for some middle school teachers last September without their consent. The union brought their complaints to PERB, a neutral entity that oversees collective bargaining in the

state, after filing a similar grievance with the district last fall.

The district hired people to provide relief in the fourth and fifth grades last fall but temporarily assigned them to other duties.

According to middle school Principal Marla Stephenson, the teachers in question were still working the same amount of time, with five periods and two prep periods.

In addition, by the time a con-

clusion is reached the charges may be moot. Due to recent districtwide cuts, Stephenson said that the seventh grade elective cycle would be removed, reverting the school back to its former schedule.

An agreement was nearly reached three times since last summer. Most recently, the union rejected a proposed 8 percent hike for teachers retroactive to January.

Anita Martinez, who PERB as-

signed to the case, cautioned against rushing to any judgment. "Nothing's been proven. These are simply allegations," she said. "There are enough facts to allege a 'prima facie' case."

Typically, the chances of proving anything dwindle with each stage in the negotiating process, she said, so few of such cases come to fruition.

If found guilty, the district would

have to "right" whatever wrong it had done.

A closed session is scheduled

for May 15, in which Martinez and both parties will informally discuss the charges.

Garden

FROM PAGE 1

dressed the crowd, saying, "Our new garden didn't just appear out of nowhere." Owens has been in charge of the project since its inception and thanked the volunteers, including AmeriCorps members, Carlie Sly of Cafe Eclectica, and a committee of environmental educators, who helped move the garden little by little to its new space.

In addition, MacGregor High students volunteered hours through the school's continuing education program.

Ocean View Principal Madeleine Hennings hopes the garden will have long term affects on the students' environmental awareness, as well. "I think that the students are becoming aware of the fact trees are alive, and you don't just break off a branch to play with," she said.

With somewhat serendipitous timing, the school board issued a resolution this month calling for a ban on the use of Roundup, an herbicide, at the Gill Tract on Buchanan Avenue adjacent to Ocean View. What affected the sprayings have on students, if any, are up for debate. But the board acted

at a recent board meeting, reacting to pressure by concerned parents who spoke out against the use of Roundup. The University of California Gill Tract Unit, which oversees the sprayings, will be meeting with district officials to discuss the matter further.

The board cited possible negative health effect of herbicides, increased community awareness and the failure of the current notification process as reasons to ban Roundup. The resolution states, "The Board of Education, in an effort to further limit the use of herbicide/pesticide treatment at the University of California Gill Tract,

requests that the University eliminate the spraying of the (treatments) at this location, and directs the Superintendent and/or his designee to work with University officials in identifying and implementing plans to achieve this objective."

The university may be changing its tune on the issue, saying it will consider other alternatives to herbicide/pesticide spraying and consider rototilling and manual weed removal at the site. In the past, officials in charge of the project have continually maintained they were opposed to either alternative.



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Friday, April 27, 2001

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B6]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B17]

Financing the construction of that brand-new home

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So, do you choose one of the local community banks, or one of the big all-in-one national lenders? It's the "Independents" versus the "All-in-Ones."

To make that decision, first you need to understand the process and although it is often said that making a construction loan is more of an art than a science, we can examine the guidelines the lenders have given us.

The construction loan process can be broken down into three phases:

■ the application and loan approval decision phase

■ the escrow and draw stages during construction phase

■ the final phase, the rollover or take out of permanent financing.

Both the Independents and the All-in-Ones look for the same information from the owner and general contractor. They both want to see good credit history, adequate income to qualify for the loan and liquidity.

The owner should have minimum reserves equaling at least the minimum equity position is the transaction. For the general contractor,



they also want a strong resume detailing experience and references.

Loan approval is also based on the project. The application would include a "future-value" appraisal that would be based on the value of the lot, plans and specs and the breakdown of soft (preliminary inspections, architect and engineering fees, and so on) and hard costs (actual building costs).

The loan amount would be determined by the lender. The local community banks generally limit the loan to 80 percent of the future value. The national lender has a sliding scale and offers for loans up to \$400,000: 90 percent loan to value; 85 percent to \$500,000; 80 percent to \$650,000; 75 percent to \$1,100,000 and 70 percent to \$2,100,000.

The construction loan product should be considered as well.

The national lenders, have the construction-to-permanent loan product that locks and closes the construction and permanent financing at the same time.

The loan product is based on an adjustable rate mortgage that is fixed for 5, 7 or 10 years taking advantage of today's low interest rates. During construction, the payments are interest-only on the full amount of the loan.

One national lender also offers a build-and-lock loan product. During the construction phase, the payments are interest-only, only on the

See SENZIG, Page B2



JENNIS EVANOSKY

Quietly tucked away on a cul-de-sac at 21 Valant Place in Piedmont just off Trestle Glen Road, this home invites you to enjoy gracious living in the serenity of a historic glen that even Mark Twain once enjoyed.

Peace, tranquility yours in Piedmont home

BY DENNIS EVANOSKY
SECTION EDITOR

When the Spaniards arrived in what we now know as the East Bay in 1772, the trail that became Trestle Glen Road traversed a pleasant arroyo. A creek that drained into the slough that later became Lake Merritt ran through the dell.

We know that Native Americans made their home in a village in the arroyo, and the early settlers called

the area "Indian Gulch" and the stream "Indian Creek"—names that stuck until Borax Smith arrived.

Much has changed, but the serenity remains, and can be enjoyed nowhere else as on Valant Place in Piedmont, a street that meets Trestle Glen Road off Park Boulevard at the handsome gates that define the neighborhood.

The four-bedroom, two-bath home at 21 Valant Place offers its

new owner the ultimate in privacy: a cul-de-sac in a park-like setting. The beautifully landscaped home boasts a terraced back yard.

The home's new owner will enjoy a spacious living room surrounded by French doors and complemented by wood-beam ceilings and a large stone and brick fireplace with a mantel.

The formal dining room has double-glass doors that lead onto

the back porch's privacy. Corian countertops and glass doors set off the new spacious eat-in kitchen with doors that lead to the home's spacious back yard.

The home's current owners have completely remodeled the bath on the main level using tumbled marble and brushed stainless steel fixtures.

See HOME Page B2



Personnel

Susanne Masella

Dagny Flanagan

Kristina Gavino

D.C. Hodges

Lynn Murray

Keith Tower

Doris Taboloff

Alice Wong-Roth

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A look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Lots Grand Opening

Ron Kriss of Lofts & Associates announces the Grand Opening of Piedmont Avenue Lofts. The Grand Opening is Sunday, May 20, from noon to 5 p.m. The public is invited. The Lofts are located off Piedmont Avenue and Broadway at the corner of 40th and Cerrito streets. To find out more call 510-547-5970 or check out the Web site at Piedmontavenuelofts.com.

Free Senior Care Guides

Georgia Richardson of Richardson Real Estate Services is offering New Lifestyles, an area guide to senior residences and care options. Guides are available for the San Francisco Bay or the Sacramento-North Bay areas. To obtain a complimentary issue, contact Richardson at 510-569-3499.

Workshop In Womanspeak

The Woman To Woman Workshop educates women on the basic principles of homebuying. Issues and concerns dealing with women are addressed in "womanspeak." The workshop includes home selection insights and demystifying the purchase process. Qualifying guidelines, closing costs and cost reduction are explained. The workshop facilitator is mortgage broker, Karen Ward of RE Loan Mortgage in Albany. The workshop is available at no cost, but reservations are a must. The next date is Saturday, May 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. For reservations call the Workshop Hotline at 510-718-2134. **Expo For Homebuyers**

FREE admission to the public. Attend the Cherry Creek Mortgage Real Estate Expo. The Expo, at the Oakland Coliseum is on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Find out how much house you can afford. You will be pre-qualified before entering the expo. Inside you'll have the opportunity to meet with select real estate professionals, from desired area geographical locations. View properties through photos, videos and virtual tours. Additionally, there will be a variety of investor and first time homebuyer workshops. No reservations required. For information or directions call Cherry Creek Mortgage at 800-325-2062.

BROKER'S OPEN AT LOFTS

Ron Kriss of Lofts & Associates invites real estate agents and brokers to attend a special Broker's Tour of Piedmont Avenue Lofts. This Grand Opening is on Thursday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These two bedroom/two bathroom loft-homes are offered with a broker co-op. The lofts, located off Piedmont Avenue and Broadway

are on the corner of 40th and Cerrito streets. For more information call 510-547-5970 or log on to Piedmontavenuelofts.com.

OAR LICENSE RENEWAL CLASS

The Oakland Association of Realtors is offering the Duane Gomer Program "45 Hours Of DRE Tests In 1/2 Day." Renew your real estate license. Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours. The seminar includes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. Additionally home-study courses for 35 DRE Consumer Protection hours are offered. Topics covered are tax strategies and creative rental management. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, May 2.

Class is held at the OAR Auditorium on Webster Street, in Oakland. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m., with a live Agency class followed by an exam. Participants need to reserve a spot in advance and pick up home-study materials at least three days prior to the class.

If you are renewing for the first time, you need only Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing courses. These courses are offered at a reduced rate for first timers. To receive an informational flyer contact the OAR office at 510-836-3000.

AGENTS NEEDED FOR EXPO

Cherry Creek Mortgage is looking for a few good real estate professionals to participate in their Real Estate Expo. This isn't your typical homeowner's fair. Attendees will be prequalified before entering the expo. Only two real estate offices from each geographical location are invited. Prequalified buyers will be directed to a participating booth for their geographic area. Participants will showcase their listings. At least one closed transaction guaranteed.

The Expo is tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Oakland Coliseum. For further information contact Monique Washington of Cherry Creek Mortgage at 1-800-325-2062 ext. 258.

BAR LUNCHEON

The Berkeley Association of Realtors Luncheon is on Wednesday, May 16. The luncheon begins promptly at 12:15 and reservations are required. The BAR Auditorium is the location. May's speaker is to be announced. For reservations or information call Don Clark at 510-848-4288.

OAR AND ORA LEE

When one thinks of Oakland and kids and Scholarships, the first name that comes to mind is **Ora Lee Brown**. Her promise and dedication have provided college scholarship funds for high school students. Her promise grew to become the Ora Lee Brown Foundation.



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

tion. The Oakland Association of Realtors wanted to do something extra to help support that foundation. A committee, chaired by Evelyn Walker of Coldwell Banker was formed to create a simple and easy way for those in the real estate community to contribute.

Though still in the planning stages, Walker reports that title companies and brokers are being contacted to participate. The end result will be a system whereby real estate agents and brokers may designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund.

The proceeds of the fund will be donated to the Ora Lee Brown Foundation. To find out more and participate contact Walker at 510-339-4778.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

It's Aunt Franny Turnour time. Grab your bat and a ball and join the Chicago Title Company's 20th Annual Aunt Franny Slo-Pitch Turnour. Join a team or create your own. This three day elimination softball tournament is offered centrally wide and benefits Make-A-Wish.

Mark your calendars for Monday, June 18, Wednesday, June 20 and Friday, June 22. If you have questions visit the Web site at auntfranny.com or contact your local CTC marketing representative.

WCR MAY MEETING

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly meeting date for May is Friday, May 11. Watch this column for more details. For information joining WCR call WCR President, Denise Smith of Royal Realtors at 510-261-1621.

MORTGAGE INDUSTRY NEWS

CARL Celebrates Cinco De Mayo

Upcoming in May is "Viva La Mexico" a Cinco De Mayo Social. Mark your calendars for May 3rd. This charity benefit event is for fun and networking. Refreshments include unlimited appetizers and four flavors of margaritas. The location is Celia's Restaurant in Danville. The celebration is from 6 to 9 p.m. For reservations call the CARL Hotline at 925-748-1847 or check out the website at eastbaycarl.org.

CARL Golf Turnney

Upcoming in June is the CARL annual Golf Tournament. Mark your

See REID, Page B4



Passengers on the Oakland Traction Company's double-decker streetcar pose on the trestle that gave Trestle Glen its name. The streetcar began bringing picnickers into the glen in 1893. It was torn down about 1906 when the company rerouted its 4th Avenue car line to run out Park Boulevard.

Home

FROM PAGE B1

The upper level has a bright master suite with a fireplace and a generous-sized dressing area complete with three closets. The spacious full bath has a skylight in the shower stall. There's even a secret passage that leads from the third bedroom into the fourth bedroom over the garage.

Deep roots

The home's idyllic setting has roots deep in the history of the glen itself. In the 1850s, above on what is now Park Boulevard foresters prodded teams of oxen that transported giant redwood logs from the forest in the hills above Oakland.

Some of this timber was no doubt transported down the trail that later became Trestle Glen Road to the embarcadero on what is now Lake Merritt.

Peder Sather — of UC Berkeley Sather Gate and Sather Tower fame — owned the the entire glen by 1880. He gave his permission for picnickers to enjoy the wooded site.

In 1893, Borax Smith's Oakland Traction Company extended its 4th Street Line to the glen on Park Boulevard where it meets Grosvenor. From there the company built the trestle into the glen over to Underhill.

Mark Twain

On the inaugural run, crowds waited to board the system's double-decker streetcar. Mark Twain is said to have been among the VIPs present that day.

Come to 21 Valant Place this Sunday from 2 to 4:30 p.m. The home is offered at \$850,000 by Nahid Nassiri of Montclair Better Homes. For more information call her at 510-287-5771.

park. But one of the opponents Frank Davis, elected mayor in 1888, tells us that the Lakeside Company of William Havens was presiding over a subdivision map, dividing the hill area into lots. Trestle Glen from Lakeside Avenue to Grosvenor, including Sather's parkland.

Then in June 1893, tells us that the Lakeside Company of William Havens was presiding over a subdivision map, dividing the hill area into lots. Trestle Glen from Lakeside Avenue to Grosvenor, including Sather's parkland.

By 1920 maps had been filed subdividing the entire area, the name Trestle Glen came to mean a place for gracious living in a fine neighborhood rather than a rendezvous for a weekend picnic.

If you are interested in enjoying this gracious living, come to 21 Valant Place this Sunday from 2 to 4:30 p.m. The home is offered at \$850,000 by Nahid Nassiri of Montclair Better Homes. Call her at 510-287-5770.

PARKRIDGE ESTATES Open Sunday • April 29 • 2-4:30 pm



5123 Parkridge Drive

Commune with nature in this wonderful, all-level Parkridge Estates home. With 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room and remodeled kitchen, this home offers country charm in the city.

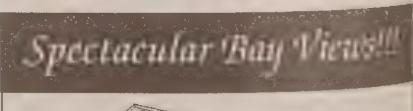
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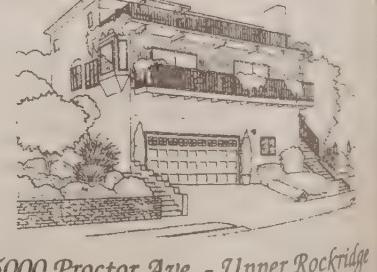
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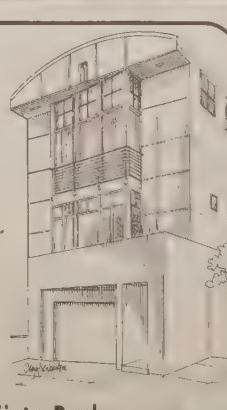
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Open Sunday 2-4:30



6323 Broadway Terrace, Rockridge

This 20's Mediterranean has been beautifully updated and features large sunny rooms, rich in architectural detail, with a nicely landscaped rear garden.

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Michelle Winchester
Office: 339-0400/203
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Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



5950 Castle Drive, Oakland

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PACIFIC UNION



THE CHALET-STYLE ARTS & CRAFTS HOME is just one of the homes you can enjoy on the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Alliance's tour of Live Oak Park Sunday, May 6.

Tour Berkeley's Live Oak Park

Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association invites you to explore "Live Oak Park" next Sunday

BY ARLENE BAXTER
CORRESPONDENT

Anyone interested in the history and architecture of Berkeley will want to reserve next Sunday, May 6 from 1 to 5 pm, to take the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association's 28th annual house tour. This year's tour — "Around Live Oak Park" — features two quintessential early Berkeley neighborhoods. Live Oak Park, created by the City in 1914, is one of North Berkeley's gems and is the centerpiece of the several neighborhoods that surround it.

The interiors and gardens of 10 special houses dating from the first years of the last century will be open for viewing. These include the early work of architects Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan.

tended over the top of the Berkeley Hills, was acquired in 1860 by one of Berkeley's earliest settlers, Napoleon Bonaparte Byrne.

He and his family and Pete and Hannah Byrne, two former slaves who had been freed prior to the journey west, made the long trip across the continent from Missouri to settle on the banks of Codornices Creek and began farming 800 acres. In 1868 the Byrnes built an imposing Italianate villa (east of the park on Oxford Street). The house stood for more than 100 years.

Then in 1885, while undergoing a long-awaited restoration, the house was severely damaged in a two arson fires. A valiant effort was made by concerned citizens to find a way to repair the house, but it was subsequently demolished after five years later.

The site of the house and its grounds, which includes a stretch of creek, continues to have significance as a reminder of Berkeley's pioneers.

Because the Byrnes had invested in a farming venture in the Delta, they began selling the Berkeley property piece by piece, beginning in 1873. Henry Berryman purchased the Byrne House with 10 adjoining acres; it then became known as "the Berryman place." Other acreage, bought by investors including Berryman, was surveyed for subdivisions.

Henry Berryman, as owner of the Berkeley Waterworks, built the Berryman Reservoir (still located nearby), and extended the steam train line north on Shattuck Avenue to Vine Street (known as Berryman Station), both as measures to increase the desirability of his North Berkeley lots. A few of the earliest houses built then are still standing today.

Site of Live Oak Park

Several early homes were built to the west on pieces of property comparable in size to the Berryman place. The Russell Penniman estate and the home of Dr. Michael O'Toole, "Glenda Lough" became the nucleus of Live Oak Park.

Through the efforts of Penniman, who purchased the O'Toole property "in order that its beauty might be kept intact and not soon sacrificed through subdivision methods," the area was a practically made-to-order garden for the city when it purchased the land in March 1914.

At that time Berkeley, like many other American cities, was swept up in the "City Beautiful" movement, and had recently commissioned a report on city planning by Werner Hegemann, which revealed a lack of public parks. The city's ambitious plan was to gradually acquire more land along Codornices Creek to link the new Live

Two groupings of houses have been selected to best show the architecture of the area, as well as to allow for exploration of Live Oak Park and a glimpse of the old Napoleon Bonaparte Byrne homestead.

There will be two houses designed by Bernard Maybeck as part of a large family compound. Both have the original redwood interiors and one even retains its wine-red velvet wall coverings.

A pair of Julia Morgan houses from 1906 and 1910 stand side by side further up the hill. They show the careful symmetry and attention to detail that reflect Julia Morgan's Beaux Arts training, which she translated into the local vernacular.

The 1908 Dempster House perched on a large corner hillside lot, is the epitome of the Arts & Crafts home and was designed by the owner to be earthquake-proof. It is owned by descendants of the original family.

Next door, a large brown-shingled house features a wrap-around porch and a bay view; it was the recipient of a BAHA preservation award.

A Henry Gutterson-designed house from 1914, built for the Howell family (of San Francisco's famed John Howell Books), has a stage in the living room which was the setting for family theatricals; the string quartet will perform there during the tour.

On a sunny southern slope is a 1905 house by Maybeck's brother-in-law and sometime-partner John White. Its forest green attire feels like a treehouse.

Another Arts & Crafts house features a partially half-timbered exterior. Finally, the "new house on the block," a large English Arts & Crafts house built in 1911 for a member of the pharmaceutical firm Cutter family, has just received the finishing touches of a loving and careful restoration.

Early history

The vast area that encompasses both the park and its neighborhoods and which ex-

The interiors and gardens of 10 special houses will be open for viewing. These include the early work of architects Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan.

Oak Park with Codornices Park several blocks to the east. Eventually the park was extended as far as Oxford Street, with a second entrance opposite the old Byrne-Berryman property.

Tickets for the tour cost \$25 for BAHA members and guests and \$32 for general admission. Tickets and information are available at 510-841-2242. Tickets also will be available on the day of the tour, starting at noon at 1212 Shattuck Ave. To view additional photos visit the BAHA Web site at www.berkeleyheritage.com.

Arlene Baxter is an agent with Berkeley Hills Realty. You can reach her at 510-524-1700, ext. 19.

BACK ON MARKET



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The vast area that encompasses both the park and its neighborhoods and which ex-

At last, my favorite time of year

Number 361 in a series of true experiences in real estate

About a month ago, when spring was barely beginning, I was positive that was my most favorite time of year in the garden. Then, over just a few weeks, plants have seemingly leapt upward, trees are in full leaf, daffodils and hyacinths have flowered and are done.

There was so much promise that to my eyes, the look of the garden was perfection. Since then, over just a few weeks, plants have seemingly leapt upward, trees are in full leaf, daffodils and hyacinths have flowered and are done.

And now, I am sure that this is my favorite time of the year in the garden. The look is even better than earlier: not too crowded yet, not many plants in bloom but burgeoning, full of new green, and clean red tips on the roses.

I've "vacuumed" all around the aray-to-come cleaned up the paths, raked the cat leaves away, trimmed ivy strings, pulled out stray grasses.

The quantity of growth that has developed in my garden in so short a time is nothing short of wondrous. The lavender-flowered campanula, for example, has wandered far and wide; its mass is great.

The mock orange blossoms and purple bearded irises are tall and exuberant and just beginning to open. Two white clematis vines have flung themselves and attached their tendrils to fences and bushes and are already in bloom. This year I have a whole grove of tall purple money plant. I had nothing to do with that; they re-seeded all on their own — gloriously.

I've shaped my smaller trees, cut away a third of their branches, even the tops. The garden books say not to do this. I think because of something to do with a purist point of view: letting trees grow to whatever size nature intended. But I do it anyway, even lopping off the ends of branches, because I want the trees to stay on the small side.

It seems to me that the greatest pleasure in gardening is doing it the way I want to. I plant what I want, pull out whatever I consider weeds, and when I get tired of a plant, even a large and established one, I dig it up, let it go.

Several years past the decision, I finally dug up the dahlias. They hadn't put up leaves yet, thank goodness. I couldn't have killed them if they'd had new leaves. These large, cactus-flowered dahlias, yellow and white — beautiful, beloved — unfortunately don't grow well in my garden.

Although I stake and tie them, they fall down. Green ladybugs eat holes in the petals. Worse, the flower heads are so heavy that every flower gets a broken neck. I just can't stand all those broken necks again, so I dug up all the tubers and threw them away.

Well, almost. On my way to the green recycling bin, I fished out some of the large tubers, put them in a bag, then carried the bag around the garden looking for another spot with full sun. I knew it was hopeless. I have precious little full sun available. As the California oaks on the edges of my back garden grow, I have increasing shade.

The few full-sun spots are occupied, so I carried my bag of tubers out front. There I found a bare place with lots of sun; there even an operating sprinkler hose there.

I planted about a quarter of the dahlias I'd dug up, thinking all the while that I'm not going to like them either. The green bugs will probably find them, and they'll have broken necks out there, too.

A plant called Bouncing Bet is bouncing along like crazy everywhere in the garden. I made the mistake of introducing pretty, pink-flowering Bet to my garden several years ago. It didn't take long to see that this plant is extremely enthusiastic, so much so that, pretty as she is, I decided to dust her.

A friend and I worked to get her out, spending most of an afternoon digging deep, carefully removing and discarding all parts of the plant including the underground stolons. We felt we'd been thorough, and for the following two years or so, it seemed we had been. Bouncing Bet was gone.

But, no; she re-emerged uphill about 25 feet above her original spot. I couldn't believe it. Had she been crawling underground all that time, only to push up as if to say, "I'm back!"

It seems to me that the greatest pleasure in gardening is doing it the way I want to. I plant what I want, pull out whatever I consider weeds, and when I get tired of a plant, even a large and established one, I dig it up, let it go.

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TARPOFF AND TALBERT

True Experiences

"Ha"? Maybe so. Bet now appears in three separate, widely spaced spots of the garden including the original planting spot from which she was absent for so long. As it doesn't look like I'm going to be able to banish this plant, I might as well get used to having it. But her habits worry me.

Twice this week friends have told me that plants I gave them died after being planted in their own yards. One plant that died in both cases is an oxalis (and Bouncing Bet) do.

It grows from small bulbs which I've found easy to transplant. What went wrong for my friends? We talked. One said, "I guess they need water." The other, when I asked, admitted that she doesn't water much, if at all.

"Oh," I said. "Well, plants do need water. My mother used to tell me that more important than anything in gardening is 'water, water, water.'

Ah, but maybe I should pass along some Bouncing Bet to my friends. I don't think my mother was thinking about Bet's sheer determination when she gave me her watering advice.

Ari Tarpoff and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. Reach them by e-mail at patatnet@lmi.net or by phone at 510-653-2050.

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Home price up 12.8% compared to last March

■ Home sales fell 7.8 percent in same period, C.A.R. reports

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

LOS ANGELES (April 25) — Sales of existing homes in California in March fell 7.8 percent and the median home price rose 12.8 percent compared to the same period a year ago, the California Association of Realtors and Real Estate Solutions, a real estate information service, reported today.

"The median price of a home in California hit a new record last month as demand for housing remained strong," said C.A.R. President Gary Thomas. "The median price of a home posted an increase in every region of the state and in many areas appreciated by double digits."

Over 500,000

Closed escrow sales of existing, single-family detached homes in

California totaled 518,410 in March at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate, according to information collected by C.A.R. from more than 90 Multiple Listing Services (MLS) statewide. Statewide home resale activity decreased 7.8 percent from the 562,090 sales pace recorded in March 2000. Resale activity posted an increase of 8.6 percent in March compared to February.

The statewide sales figure represents what the total number of homes sold during 2001 would be if sales maintained the March pace throughout the year. It is adjusted to account for seasonal factors that typically influence home sales.

The median price of an existing, single-family detached home in California during March 2001 was \$262,980, a 12.8 percent increase over the \$233,140 median for March 2000, C.A.R. reported. The March 2001 median price increased 7.4 percent compared to February 2001.

C.A.R., in conjunction with Real Estate Solutions' MetroScan software and information product, reported that 84 percent of California cities and communities showed an increase in their respective median home prices from a year ago.

Some highlights

■ C.A.R.'s Unsold Inventory Index for existing, single-family detached homes in March 2001 was 3.6 months, compared to 3.0 months for the same period a year ago. The index indicates the number of months needed to deplete the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate.

■ Thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates averaged 6.95 percent during March 2001, down from 8.24 percent in March 2000, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Adjustable mortgage interest rates averaged 6.28 percent in March 2001, compared to 6.70 percent in March 2000.

■ The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home was 26 days in March 2001, down from 32 days for the same period a year ago.

The MLS median price and sales data for detached homes is generated from a survey of more than 90 associations of Realtors throughout the state. MLS median price and sales data for condominiums is based on a survey of 64 associations. The median price for both detached homes and condominiums represents closed escrow sales.

Historic low

"Time on the market hit a historic low of 26 days in March, further evidence of the underlying strength of the housing market in most areas of California," said Leslie Appleton-Young, C.A.R.'s vice president and chief economist.

See REPORT Page B11

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people seeking custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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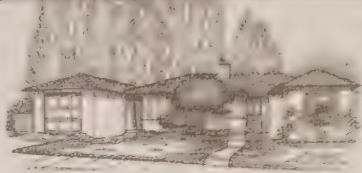
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Northbrae

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2410-2412 Carlton @ Telegraph - 1st Open: Sunday, April 29 2-4

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Front home: Great 2 Bedroom bungalow. Well preserved original wood trim and built-ins in living and dining rooms. Eat-in kitchen, splendid yard/patio. Rear Cottage: Charming 1 bedroom with hardwood floors, fireplace in living room, private back garden.

2348 Hilgard Walk to UCB & Gourmet Ghetto. - \$325,000

2 Bedroom garden condo in sought after location. Living room w/fireplace and hardwood floors. Patio off kitchen.

373 - 4th, Oakland Hi-Tech Loft - NEW PRICE! \$419,000

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3832-3908 Ceritto, Piedmont Avenue Co-Housing Village

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WEEKLY SALES**ALAMEDA**

2225 Clinton Av - \$708,000
300 Court St - \$432,000
1340 Fernside Bl - \$404,000
3335 Fir Av - \$310,000
1 Fitch Ct - \$495,000
1610 High St - \$42,000
345 Laguna Vista - \$481,000
955 Shorepoint #308 - \$285,500
1111 Walnut St - \$370,000

BERKELEY

930 Carmel Av - \$560,000
1632 Curtis St - \$465,000
2763 Dohr St - \$285,000
2434 Piedmont Av - \$1,360,000
190 Poplar St - \$725,000
1205 Portland Av - \$365,500
1627 Prince St - \$325,000
833 Shattuck Av - \$585,000
166 Tunnel Rd - \$2,700,000

EL CERRITO

619 Kearney St - \$650,000

EL SOBRANTE

5150 Hilltop Dr - \$226,500

EMERYVILLE

4 Captain Dr #E30 - \$192,000
6363 Christie #242 - \$260,000

OAKLAND

2375 109th Av - \$196,000
1422 16th St - \$205,000
1434 3rd St - \$145,000
395 60th St - \$500,000
1547 67th Av - \$200,000
2526 75th Av - \$170,000
1312 84th Ct - \$181,000
1901 87th Av - \$185,000
1435 89th Av - \$147,500
1918 89th Av - \$200,000
4350 Arden Pl - \$645,000
685 Arimo Av - \$675,000
6246 Aspinwall #C - \$915,000
6535 Buena Ventura - \$374,000
280 Caldecott #121 - \$255,000
5837 Chabot Ct - \$526,500
6174 Contr Costa - \$950,000
3274 Coolidge Av - \$165,000
1823 East 22nd St - \$972,927
2437 East 28th St - \$225,000
1641 East 33rd St - \$245,000
2440 Fern St - \$500,000
2669 Grande Vista Av - \$379,000
2672 Havenside Bl - \$172,000
4551 Heafey Rd - \$735,500
7106 Homewood Dr - \$540,000
5528 Kales Av - \$509,000
3033 Kingsland Av - \$370,000
6730 Laird Av - \$405,000
5825 Lawton Av - \$605,000
135 Maggiora Dr - \$440,000
3795 Manila Av - \$195,000
5537 Marshall St - \$321,000
1439 Mitchell St - \$175,000
2133 Mitchell St - \$179,000
3051 Modesto Av - \$368,000
701 Paloma Av - \$543,000
3200 Park Bl - \$360,000
11058 Robledo Dr - \$204,000
245 Samaria Ln - \$457,000
8933 Seneca St - \$298,000
12391 Skyline Bl - \$815,000
7838 Sterling Dr - \$193,000
5361 Trask St - \$307,000
10016 Walnut St - \$109,000
4101 West St - \$180,000
7125 Westmoorland - \$800,000
288 Whitmore #223 - \$174,000

RICHMOND

651 11th St - \$220,000
770 32nd St - \$262,000
779 35th St - \$230,000
518 36th St - \$250,000
728 39th St - \$225,000
640 40th St - \$235,000
324 43rd St - \$450,000
1813 4th St - \$205,000
2322 Andrade Av - \$412,500
2927 Birmingham Dr - \$275,000
1740 Burbank Av - \$195,000
3131 Center Av - \$193,000
2115 Cutting Bl - \$169,000
1345 Filbert St - \$80,000
2903 Gilma Dr - \$270,000
805 Griffin Dr - \$150,000
3173 Henderson Dr - \$250,000
119 Marcus Av - \$172,500
1568 Martin Dr - \$194,500
1136 Parkridge Dr - \$240,000
5 Seabreeze Dr - \$520,000

See SALES Page B12

Open Sunday 2-4:30

108 Magnolia Ave, Piedmont
A striking traditional 2-story home with 3BR/2BA and a remodeled gourmet kitchen. Private, level garden. Great location, close to park and schools.
Offered at \$735,000
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6018 Balboa Drive
Set in a gorgeous park like setting on a huge lot, this pristine home offers the ultimate in peaceful living and yet, just minutes from the Village.
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New Listing • Open Sunday 2 to 4:30

341 Vernon St., Oakland
\$495,000
Spanish Mediterranean split level home:
4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, living room with tile-trimmed fireplace, formal dining room, family room, 1+ car garage, private rear porch and patio, hardwood floors. Conveniently located in Adams Point north of Lake Merritt.
Wendy Yee
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Home: (510) 763-9644

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Rumpus/media room
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1829 Northwood Court
Lots of light and Big Bay Views are yours from this exciting new home with Mediterranean flair. Grand formal entry, family room off kitchen, four bedrooms, two and a half baths (including gracious master suite), home office and fabulous decks.
Offered at \$995,000

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18 Langdon Court \$1,650,000

This exciting home in central Piedmont offers dramatic formal rooms, soaring ceiling throughout; beautiful Bay views and a mature level out garden. Angela Wei Grubb

118 Woodland Way \$935,000

Old world charm comes out to greet you in this wonderfully updated Tudor home set on a quiet tree-lined street. Fabulous gardens. Mindy Scott

101 Beechwood Drive \$2,349,000

Elegant architecture accents this romantic 5BR, 3+BA Tuscan Villa in Claremont Pines. Designed & built by Mark Becker, on an exceptional lot w/private gardens. Debra J. Dryden

7105 Marlborough Terrace \$1,375,000

Exquisite new home w/fabulous design details & finishes. Gourmet kitchen/family room. 4BR/3.5BA + library & luxurious master suite. Views. Sherry Benninger

5556 Bacon Road New Listing \$1,195,000

Spacious & expansive, this newer split level home is set on 1.4 acres. Kitchen/family room w/canyon views, master suite, living room w/views of the Bay. Kurt Buchholz

6145 Estates Drive New Listing \$1,195,000

Stylish traditional with Bay views on large private lot. 4BR/4BA, updated eat-in kitchen, spacious formal rooms, rumpus and great garden. Karen Starr

6089 Mazuela Drive New Listing \$1,100,000

Enjoy the SF views from nearly every room of this newer custom home. 4BR/3+BA, office, kitchen/family room combo. On a quiet cul-de-sac near Montclair Village. Judith Cain

Claremont Pines with Views \$1,295,000

Lovely home w/views. Level property surrounded by trees. 3BR/4BA, family room + office & bonus room. Elizabeth Dickson

View • View • View \$1,099,000

Southwestern contemporary w/panoramic Bay views w/over 3000 sq. ft. 3BR/2.5BA. Artistic finish details. John Karnay

A New Home \$825,000

Fabulous 3BR/3.5BA contemporary w/sparkling Bay views. High ceilings & expansive decks. Debbi DiMaggio

A View to Remember \$825,000

PIEDMONT. This view home has it all, including hardwood floors, 3BR, rumpus & views. Anian Pettit Tunney

Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

108 Magnolia Ave. New Listing \$735,000

A striking traditional Piedmont 2-story home with 3BR/2BA and updated kitchen. Great location, close to Piedmont Park and schools. Chris Cohn

407 Moraga Avenue \$535,000

Beautifully remodeled bungalow on a huge lot. Extra space at every turn. 2+BR/1+BA. Great central Piedmont location near schools and transportation. Carin Caroe

Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.
3866 Balfour Ave. New Listing \$955,000

Simply beautiful & totally restored. An exceptional property. 4BR, office, 2+BBAs, gorgeous kitchen/family room & lovely gardens. Katherine Cooper

6040 Ocean View Drive New Price \$850,000

Incredible value for an incredible home! Sensational 1930's Mediterranean w/rich architectural details. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Exquisite tile & woods. Sandra Vogl

151 The Uplands, Berkeley \$849,000

Wonderful traditional home w/formal rooms. Secret garden w/hot tub. Updated kitchen w/natural light & hardwood floors. Close to shops & restaurants. 3BR/2BA. Kurt Buchholz

2844 Chelsea Drive New Listing \$749,000

Feel at home in this Piedmont Pines contemporary w/views, gourmet kitchen, 3BR/2BA including elegant master suite + guestroom/office w/bath. John Karnay/Steve Michaelides

3115 Holroyd Drive Price Upon Request

Enjoy spectacular Bay, city & bridge views from this Montclair home. 3BR/2BA on main. 2BR/1BA down. Spacious family room. Great for shared living or au pair. Debbi DiMaggio

11550 Sun Valley Dr. \$675,000

Beautiful 3BR/3BA estate on 1.22 level acres of landscaped grounds. Back garden overlooks Chabot Golf Course. Barn & corral or convert to office. Ed Kuo


6333 Broadway Terrace New Listing \$595,000

Charming & stylish 20's Mediterranean in Upper Rockridge near Hillcrest School, a high performing K-8 plus blic school. Spacious & sunny w/updated kitchen & baths. Judith Cain

5500 Estates Drive New Price \$539,000

Cheerful & sunny Upper Rockridge home on a private site. Pleasant front patio opens out from kitchen. Many upgrades. 6BR/3BA. Wow! Laurel Strand

3945 Waterhouse Road New Listing \$519,000

Situated on 1/4 acre of luscious gardens, this Mediterranean style home boasts charming architectural details. Four bedrooms, two baths + huge rumpus. Mavis Delacox

3432 Brunell Drive New Listing \$399,000

Lovely contemporary tucked away in the trees! 3+BR/3 updated baths, large decks with an indoor/outdoor feel. Montclair schools. Nancy Lehrkind

Piedmont & Oakland - By Appointment
Rockridge Condo New Listing \$600,000

A lovely top-floor unit overlooking Claremont Country Club. 2BR/2BA, hardwood floors & fireplace. Irene Pettit

"Off Broadway" Hit \$599,000

Stylish 3BR/1.5BA traditional, beautifully updated throughout. Beautiful gardens. Katherine Cooper

Build Your Dream Home \$550,000

The hard work is done. Lot comes w/approved plans. Put your finishing touches on the interior. Adam Betta

Piedmont Opportunity \$499,000

Conveniently located w/3BR/2BA including a master suite. Updated kitchen, formal dining room & views. Kurt Buchholz

1920's Crocker Highlands \$469,000

This fabulous traditional home includes hardwood floors, built-ins & a delightful garden. Anian Pettit Tunney

Park Hills Retreat New Listing \$449,000

BERKELEY. A charming, retreat just minutes from UC Berkeley. 3BR/2BA and updated kitchen. Nancy Lehrkind

Live/Work Loft New Listing \$349,000

Smashing live/work loft in Jack London Square. Approx 1,332 sq. ft. near BART, shops & water front. Ed Kuo

Upper Rockridge Condominium \$285,000

Condominium in the sought after Heritage of Claremont, w/2BR/1BA & stunning views. Adrienne Tunney

Open Sunday

CLAREMONT HILLS \$2,275,000
6809 BUCKINGHAM BLVD. (Open 2-4:30) 5+BD/4.5BA. Splendid new home w/panoramic SF & GG views. Gourmet kitchen/family room. Luxurious master suite. Level yard. 1/2 acre +/- . Nancy Noman x373

PIEDMONT \$2,195,000
50 SANDRINGHAM RD. (Open 2-4:30) 5+BD/4+BA chalet w/ filtered Bay views, pool, spa, & sauna. Custom built and maintained by original owners, this property abounds with redwoods, oaks & pines. Charlotte Boyle x370

CRESTMONT \$1,695,000
158 COLGET DR. (Open 2-4:30) Five bridge Bay views. Luxurious 4+BD/4.5BA architect designed home. Library w/private entrance & terrace. Toward suite with master bath. Level yard areas. David Ichikawa x331

CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,199,000
103 AMITO DR. (Open 2-4:30) Leonard Perillo presents this exciting new Mediterranean with bay & canyon views. 4BD/4BA. FDR, kit/lam room & master suite. Country/city living. Bonnie Hirsch x337

ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) \$1,195,000
5924 CONTRA COSTA RD. (Open 2-4:30) This beautiful, contemporary Mediterranean home combines elegant living and thrilling views. 4BD/3BA. Debi Fitzgerald x306

MONTCLAIR \$949,000
6845 OAKWOOD DR. (Open 2-4:30) Dramatic custom 11 yr old home with expansive canyon views. 3+BD/2.5BA. Spacious flowing floor plan. Approx. 4200+ sf with expansion potential. Carolyn Jones x339

ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) \$848,000
686 FLORENCE AVE. (Open 2-4:30) New Listing! Dramatic architecture and quality craftsmanship. Built in 2000 by architect/builder Gary York. Beautiful hill views. 3BD/2.5BA. James Duffy x326

ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) \$825,000
268 SHERIDAN RD. (Open 2-4:30) Spacious 1993 contemporary. 6+BD/4.5BA. Formal dining room. Recreation room w/fireplace & wet bar. Wendy Gardner x303

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$825,000
808 WALAVISTA AVE. (Open 2-4:30) Stately, sun-drenched 4+BD/2.5BA, rich in architectural details. Family & sun rooms. Large level yard. Jeffrey Himmel x307

CLAREMONT HILLS \$919,000
7000 NORFOLK RD. (Open 2-4:30) New Listing! Sophisticated design w/expansive hill & South Bay views. 3 year old home, approx. 3,300 sq. ft. with family room & bonus/rumpus/media room. 3BD/2.5BA. Teri Carlisle x305

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Open Sunday
Open Sunday

MONTCLAIR \$369,000
6323 WESTOVER DRIVE (Open 2-4:30) New Listing! 2BD/1BA gem on its own cul-de-sac. Modern kitchen, living dining room with fireplace, private hot tub deck and great canyon views. Chuck Corwin x353

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$299,000
4081 NORTON AVE. (Open 2-4:30) Charming 1912 cottage with character 2+BD/1BA. Living room w/flr flrs, FDR, breakfast room, deck w/Bay view & level yard. Kathy Flynn x317

PIEDMONT \$2,850,000
Classic Colonial on over 1/3 acre. 5+BD/3+BA. Stunning kitchen/family room. Renovated throughout. Beautiful Georgia Cornell x325

PIEDMONT \$2,595,000
SF/Bay views from this central Piedmont 3+BD/2.5BA. Remodeled throughout. Expansive formal rooms. 5+BD/3+BA, large kitchen and adjoining family room open to a level yard. Georgia Cornell x325

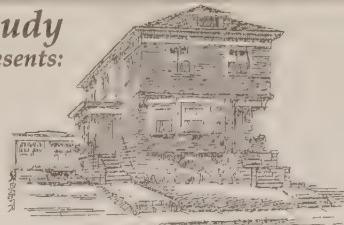
ROCKRIDGE \$789,000
Fabulous remodeled craftsman. Good blend of restored original detailing and quality new spaces. 3BD/2.5BA, FDR, office. Floor-to-ceiling windows with views of hills. Lee Jacobson x345

ALAMEDA \$329,000
Warm & inviting 2BD/1BA bungalow. Formal dining room. Kitchen with breakfast nook. Fireplace. Private back yard. Kathy Flynn x317

OAKLAND \$229,500
Charming 1BD cottage style home, remodeled and upgraded with great attention to detail and style. Lovely landscaped yards. Diane Earl McCan x352

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Hurry! Only one loft available. Back on the Market. One of 5 brand new lofts in the thriving South Shattuck neighborhood of Berkeley. 1+ bedrooms, 1 bath, private terrace, gas appliances, upgraded flooring, huge industrial style windows, and great architecture. 1 of 5 lofts close to everything. Berkeley Bowl Market, Downtown Berkeley, Emeryville, and just 2 blocks to BART makes the commute to SF a snap.

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High Mid \$300,000 and UP

These 19 New Luxury Lofts combine all the great features of urban loft living with an unparalleled location. All lofts feature at least 2 bedrooms/2 baths, and even some 3 bedroom/3 bathroom models. Materials include extensive use of hardrock maple, granite, cherrywood, concrete, and steel. Light floods these 3 story lofts through huge industrial windows and most lofts have windows on 3 sides. Each loft has a bedroom/bathroom on the ground floor, a private attached 1 car garage, huge eat-in kitchens with tons of counter space and cabinets, the master bathroom has granite tile floors and an oversized oval tub. And you are just steps from one of Oakland's premier shopping and dining districts - Piedmont Avenue where there is always gallons of great coffee!

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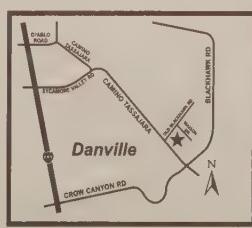
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Open Sunday 2-4

Mary Gray (510) 559-2939



COMING SOON...Gorgeous Craftsman

Arts & Crafts details, new kitchen opens to sunny deck with Mt. Tam view. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, spacious master bedroom or au pair down. French doors to landscaped yard. Call

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OAKLAND. 1921 E. 21st ST. \$259,888

Custom-built 3br/1.5ba, two-story home on a huge lot only minutes from Lake Merritt & downtown. Freshly painted interior, hardwood floors, fireplace in LR, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen. Move-in condition.

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Mary Lou Loomis (510) 559-2919



RICHMOND ANNEX. 5511 Colusa \$209,000

Cute, two bedroom starter home. Low maintenance backyard, one-car garage, close proximity to transportation make this an ideal alternative to renting

Open Sunday 2-4

Darrel Hoh (510) 559-2905



EL CERRITO. 7364 Stockton \$448,000

Beautiful Bay views from this conveniently located home in the hills. Three bedrooms, 2 full baths, formal dining room, stunning master suite, bonus room

Open Sun 2-4

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EL CERRITO. 2302 Carquinez \$429,000

Enjoy the sunsets from your level three bedroom, bay home in the hills. Corner lot for great light & privacy, hardwood floors, and a plus room for home office, family room, or your choice.

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Grand Lake. 742 Walker Ave. New Listing! Open Sun., 2-4:30. Spacious 1920 bungalow w/ 3+ bdms & 2 baths. Architectural details w/2 lovely original tile frprcs, built-in cabinets, hwd floors, skylights, separate dining & large kitchen. Nice level back garden area. Basement w/workshops. Lots of storage. Walk to Grand Lake shops & restaurants. Easy commute to San Francisco.

Chris Ehlers-Hardie • 524-9888 x22 \$475,000



Lower Rockridge. 470 McAuley St. New Listing! Open Sun., 2-4. Immaculate, serene hideaway. 3 bdms, 1 1/4 baths. Designed by Hachiro Yuasa w/ clean Japanese-style lines & wonderful indoor/outdoor access. Living rm wall of windows opens out to a big garden w/ graceful pond & a charming Japanese tea house (ready for a tea ceremony).

Jane Allen • 524-9888 x23 \$342,000



Albany. 912 Pierce Street. New Listing! Open Sun., 2-4. Two-story home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen on main level and master bedroom suite with 2nd bath and family room up! Big basement, separate laundry room.

Jean Auka • 524-9888 x16 \$345,000



Oakland. 2614 Madeline St. Open Sun. 2-5. Artfully remodeled brown shingle craftsman w/a lush, priv. bldg, serene hill views & pleasant outlooks from each rm. Light & bright w/3 BR, 2 BA, lots of charm. In excellent shape. An en suite is a separate office w/its own entrance & courtyard.

Norah Brower • 524-9888 x26 \$399,000



Berkeley. 2120 - 6th St., #4. Ground floor unit in architecturally interesting live/work Ocean View Lofts. This unit opens to an interior courtyard with bubbling fountain and mature garden. Remodeled kitchen with two ovens. Close to popular 4th Street shops and easy access to public transportation and freeway.

Joan Brunswick • 524-9888 x12 \$265,000



Oakland. 625 El Dorado Ave., #301. Open Sun. 2-4:30. Elegant & spacious 2 bdrr, 2 bath condo w/ new beautiful kitchen: granite, stainless steel, custom lighting, living rm w/fireplace, extra-wide balcony w/sylvan views. Updated baths. Quiet, tree-lined street, walking distance to Piedmont Avenue amenities.

Arlene Baxter • 524-9888 x19 \$365,000



Berkeley. 2205 McGee Ave. Open Sun., 2-4:30. A Berkeley bungalow w/ cook's kitchen. This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home features living room w/ fireplace & built-ins, dining room w/ coffered ceiling, hardwood floors. The capivating kitchen has been updated w/ copious cabinetry. A French door leads to the deck & hot tub. Walking distance to BART.

Warren Lei • 524-9888 x14 \$365,000

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New Price!

Open Sunday 2-4:30

6040 Ocean View Drive, Oakland
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Beautiful hardwood floors. In move-in condition. 2 Bed., 1 Bath., with huge potential for expansion. Corner lot.


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Donna Conroy



5317 Broadway.....\$549,000
Rockridge. Classic Duplex. 2 nice size units, hardwood built-ins, fireplace, with many original features. Close to BART & College Ave. Open 1-4:30 p.m. **Victor Ratto/Adele Wong**

COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS International



Piedmont\$2,500,000
Classic Piedmont Mediterranean in the heart of Piedmont. 4+BD, fabulons remodeled kitchen/breakfast room, spacious terrace & level backyard. Great style & quality. By Appointment **Dian Hymer**



900 Alvarado.....\$1,495,000
Berkeley. Charm. Tremendous details and quality throughout. Phil Perkins designed home. Open 1-4 p.m. **Eckert IPX**



Upper Rockridge.....\$995,000
Enterain in style & character. Spacious kitchen and family room with French doors opening to a sunny level yard. By Appointment **Michael Thompson**



Montclair\$995,000
SF City & Bay Views. Perfect for home office plus 4BD/3BA Separate studio w/bath & view. By Appointment **Jack Brennenman**



Luxury in Oakland Hills ...\$1,200,000

Contemporary home w/custom details, built May 2000. Serene views & a lush green setting. 4BR/2.5BA, formal dining, 3 fireplaces, family room & deck accessing outdoors. Easy San Francisco commute. **Michael Thompson**

BERKELEY • 510.486.1495



BETTER THAN A TUDOR\$795,000
NEW LISTING! Beautifully remodeled kitchen, granite and Italian tile. Arched ceilings & ideal floor plan. Lovely garden with doll house. Bay views and solid foundation. 4BR/3BA and office. Over 2700 sq. ft. approx

BERKELEY
1698 Tacoma.....\$385,000
Lori Arazi

2316 Corona Ct.....\$795,000
Diane Verducci

31 Florida Ave.....\$895,000
Diana Kay

868 Arlington Ave.....\$999,000
Colonia, 3BD/3BA w/ view
Rita Zwedling

1316-1316A Martin Luther King Jr. Way.....\$495,000
Sally Hendrickson

2330 Sacramento.....\$449,000
David DeZerega

EL CERRITO
1524 Douglas Dr.....\$495,000
Diana Kay

View home, 4+BD/2.5BA

BY APPOINTMENT

BRIGHT BERKELEY UNIT\$219,000
Top-floor 1 bdrm charmer with updated kitchen and bath. Off-street parking and garden. Conv to campus, BART & Berkeley Bowl.

CLASSY BERKELEY TOWNHOUSE\$318,000
Bright & cheerful 2BR/1.5BA in great location! Fireplace, updated, kitchen, deck & parking. Near campus, College Ave & BART

BERKELEY VICTORIAN APTS \$325,000 & \$275,000
Sun-filled, charming units in a great location near UC Berkeley. Arched details and new paint. 2bdm suites & a grand LR/DR; Up has 2bdm/1ba, balcony deck. Yd, pkng.

STUNNING MARINA BAY CONDO....\$350,000
Desirable gated community near trails and amenities. Large high ceiling mbdm/ba. 2+ bdmr/3 baths! Recent upgrades include carpets, vinyl floor & fantastic custom deck!

BAY VIEW IN EL CERRITO.....\$495,000
Light & spacious home, 4+bdm/2.5ba + study + family room. New deck. Backyard abuts Hillside Park. A great setting in the hills. 2 car gar.

GORGEOUS MEDITERRANEAN.....\$895,000
All redone! Over 2600 sq. ft! Grand living & dining rooms. Fabulous new kitchen! 3+bdmrs/3baths, exquist garden, 2 car garage & EZ access to Kensington Village.

3 BRIDGE VIEW ABOVE CAMPUS.....\$1,100,000
Bright, sunny, 3 level home in hills above UCI! 4bdmrs/3baths w/great space separation. Landscaped entry. Property is both legal duplex or single family!

BY APPOINTMENT

Montclair.....\$355,000
Fabulous level yard for entertaining. 3BD/2BA.

Dell Orr

Oakland Hills.....\$479,000
Near hiking trails & equestrian center. 3BD/2BA

Ruby Ng

Montclair.....\$349,000
Beautiful, almost level, amidst luxury homes.

Fritz Hochfellner

Berkeley.....\$349,000
Great location near BART. 2BD/1BA.

Evelyn Walker

Lake Merritt.....\$319,000
Remodeled condo w/sweeping view.

Michael Thompson

Berkeley.....\$279,000
Charming Condo. 1BD/1BA.

Dell Orr

Claremont.....\$650,000
Level land & view lot. Adjacent to parcel next door could be sold as package. **David Eckert**

Vicky Faulk

Laurel.....\$465,000
Duplex with Bay View, 2BD/1BD units.

Victor Fierro

Walk to BART! 2+BD/1BA, detached studio cottage.

Becky Anderssen

Claremont.....\$650,000

Land & view lot. Adjacent to parcel next door could be sold as package. **David Eckert**

Vicky Faulk

Walk to BART! 2+BD/1BA, detached studio cottage.

Becky Anderssen

Claremont.....\$650,000

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Vicky Faulk

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Becky Anderssen

Claremont.....\$650,000

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Becky Anderssen

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Vicky Faulk

Walk to BART! 2+BD/

Montclair**"Exceptional Real Estate Service Since 1976"**

Each office is independently owned and operated.

Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm

NEW LISTING.....CALL FOR PRICE
 Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this stunning Piedmont Tudor rests on approx. 12,345 sf lot. Enjoy refinished hwd fls, vaulted wood beam ceilings, french windows, a remodeled bath & a huge backyard. 21 Valant Place.
 Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400



CAPTURE THE FRENCH COUNTRY.....\$999,000
 Tradition in Upper Rockridge. Beautiful kitchen/fam rm combo w/fp. Arches, maple floors, granite countertops, deck w/bay views, 4+BR 3+BA. Very charming. 5917 Contra Costa Rd.
 Noni Robinson 510-339-8400



SOPHISTICATED CONTEMPORARY.....\$795,000
 ...that's nestled in the hills of Montclair. Only 2 years old. 4+BR plus an artist loft. 3+ bath. Gourmet cooks kitchen, great room, 2 fireplaces, high ceilings - unique features. 6400 Longcroft
 Noni Robinson 510-339-8400



OUTSTANDING VALUE.....\$599,000
 Impressive ranch style home in the picturesque Sequoyah Hills has incredible view of SF and 3 bridges. From living room, dining room and master suite. Near regional parks and trails. 8101 Coach Drive
 Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

**Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm**

MONTCLAIR.....\$595,000
 Exceptional view of Mt. Tam & 3 bridges! 3 bdrm 2 ba - 2 master suites! 2 car garage. Dramatic contemporary home. Many upgrades. Serene and private. Close to Montclair Village. 5915 Mazuela Dr. Charlene Claybough 510-339-8400

ENCHANTING SETTING TO LIVE YOUR DREAMS.....\$535,000

Romantic Montclair charmer features gleaming hardwood floors, vaulted ceiling, remodeled kitchen & french doors to uniquely level garden, professionally designed. Separate home office with full bath. Don't miss this chance to fulfill your dreams! 50 Evirel Place
 Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400

JUST LISTED!.....\$389,000

Updated Mediterranean style bungalow on fabulous Glenview street! Bright and spacious with hill views and lovely yard. Open Sunday - call for info. 4617 Benevides
 Patricia Bennett 510-339-8400

STYLE & SPACE.....\$375,000

Elegant Monterey style w/bay views. Large family room, formal dining room, 3 bd, 1.5 ba, veranda, rear deck. Large level backyard, 2 car garage, quiet street, great neighborhood. 7515 Sterling Drive
 Joe Ashton 510-339-4000

ELEGANT OPERA PLAZA CONDO.....\$349,000

One of a kind elegant, custom designed condo in opera plaza complex offers ultimate convenience in upscale urban style. Gym, pool, sauna, racquet ball, cinema, florist, bookstore and more! 601 Van Ness #244, San Francisco
 Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

CHARMING MONTCLAIR COTTAGE!.....\$369,000

Secluded & situated on a cul-de-sac, this 2 bd/1 ba charmer rests on approx 7,425 sf lot. A fenced level front yd, wrap around deck/patio finished hwd fls, new kitchen, & lg m w/ skylight await you. 5730 Thornhill Drive
 Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400

UNIQUE 1930s ESTATE.....\$950,000

...with Panoramic Bay views. Superb Tudor with spectacular living room, office/observatory, rec room with wet bar and covered patio. 5 BR/4 BA
 Richard Keeling 510-339-4000

MAGICAL WOODED SETTING!.....\$659,000

Maximum privacy can be yours in this Montclair retreat sitting on approx. 12,118 sf. lot. Hwd fls, bright lg m w/fireplace, gourmet kitchen & enchanting backyard surrounded by nature.
 Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400

By Appointment

BY APPOINTMENT

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 PM

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FIND OUR

Report

FROM PAGE B5

"Consumers remain concerned about the overall direction of the economy, but the demand for housing continues to outpace the supply of homes for sale. Following four consecutive month-to-month declines, sales of existing, single-family homes rose 6.6 percent in March compared to February."

In a separate report covering more localized statistics generated by C.A.R. and Real Estate Solutions' MetroScan service, 264 of 313 California cities and communities showed an increase in median home prices from a year ago.

Using the MetroScan database, median home prices are generated

from new and existing condominium and single-family closed escrow sales. These localized MetroScan statistics are based on county records data rather than MLS information.

Large changes in local median home prices typically indicate both local home price appreciation, and often, large shifts in the composition of housing market activity. Some of the variations in median home prices may be exaggerated due to compositional changes in housing demand.

Among the highlights of the March localized data collected by C.A.R. and Real Estate Solutions:

The top 10

Statewide, the 10 cities and communities with the highest me-

dian home prices in California during March 2001 were:

- Pacific Palisades, \$880,500
- Malibu, \$849,000
- Burlingame, \$800,000
- Orinda, \$743,750
- Carmel, \$725,050
- Palos Verdes, \$725,000
- Mill Valley, \$720,000
- Beverly Hills, \$717,500
- Menlo Park, \$715,000
- San Carlos, \$699,000.

Statewide, the 10 cities and communities with the greatest median home price increases in March 2001 compared to the same period a year ago were: San Bruno, 77.6 percent; San Pablo, 62.3 percent; Ridgecrest, 59 percent; Nevada City, 56.6 percent; Artesia, 50.6 percent; Richmond, 49.9 percent; Watsonville, 48.9 percent; Napa, 46.7 percent; Pittsburg, 45.2 percent; Westlake Village, 45.2 percent.

The California Association of Realtors (www.car.org) is one of the largest state trade organizations in the United States, with more than 97,000 members dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate. C.A.R. is headquartered in Los Angeles.

sels. School groups of 4th graders and above are welcome to reserve space. Boarding time is 30 minutes prior to departure.

Reservations can be made by calling 510-627-1188. Call for tour dates. E-mail your request to jadam@portoakland.com.

Due to capacity limits for each tour, reservations must be made in advance of boarding (at least 48 hours prior to each tour). No reservations will be taken in advance for harbor tours scheduled as part of the May 19 PortFest event. Boarding will be first-come-first-served.

**Open Sunday 2-4:30
3115 Holyrood Drive, Montclair**

Price Upon Request

The GRUBB Co.

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for a photo tour of this listing.

Debbi DiMaggio

Making Transitions Easier

339.0400/227

**UPPER ROCKRIDGE
Open Sunday • April 29 • 2-4:30 pm****268 Sheridan Road, Oakland**

Spacious 1993 contemporary with flexible floor plan. Master suite on main level has fireplace and spa tub, walk-in closet and double sinks. Skylights brighten main and lower floor due to clever stair design.

5 bedrooms/4.5 baths

Formal dining room and eat-in kitchen
Recreation room with fireplace and wet bar
Office or gym/multipurpose room

Offered at \$825,000

Wendy Gardner CRS

Associate Broker

Bus: (510) 339-6460 ext. 303

Visit us at www.pacunion.com**PACIFIC UNION****NEW LISTING!
Open Sunday • April 29 • 2-4:30****3827 Rhoda Avenue, Oakland**

Darling all-level cottage with beautiful gardens.

3 Bedrooms/2 baths & much more!

Offered at \$379,000

Teamwork is the difference
Sandi Klemmer & Dick Cohen
Senior Sales Consultants
Bus: (510) 339-6460 x314 or x308

Visit us at www.pacunion.com**PACIFIC UNION**

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531-7000

REALTORS

WELLS BENNETT

House hunting this weekend? Turn to our Open Home Guide on B17

**Open Sunday
2-4:30****151 The Uplands, Berkeley
Offered at \$849,000**

This wonderful traditional home features spacious formal rooms, a secret garden with hot tub, updated kitchen with natural light and hardwood floors. Great Claremont location

The GRUBB Co.

GRUBBCO.COM

Kurt Buchholz
339.0400/221**OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30****1839 NORTHWOOD CT. \$955,000**

Dramatic new home with Mediterranean flair! Big bay views! 4BD/2.5BA, home office, kitchen/family room combo. Great master suite. Fabulous decks.

Mary Neuberger 530-4148

**6157 RUTHLAND ROAD. \$839,000**

Price reduced on this charming 5-year old home in a prime location. Front & rear yards. Large master suite includes fpic, vaulted ceilings & walk in closet. Gourmet kit, frm1 DR & LR

David Hennigan 601-9540

**22 KESWICK CT. \$689,000**

Compare to New! Beautiful 7-year old contemporary home on great Piedmont Pines street. 3BD/2.5BA. Enormous "Hang-out-in" kitchen, terrific master suite, separate level family room/home office. Mary Neuberger 530-4148

**6767 OAKWOOD DRIVE. \$659,000**

This well designed 1987 home combines a fluid floorplan w/fine craftsmanship & special setting in a grove of mature bay trees. Spacious mstr. ste. w/dressing rm. 2 additional BD, 1.5 additional BA. Fml1 LR & DR, eat-in kit, w/garage access. Huge semi-finished utility areas on lower level.

Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos 339-9780

**77 MERRIEWOOD CIRCLE. \$399,000**

Montclair Retreat! Spacious 3+BD/2BA in tranquil wooded setting, light & airy floorplan, wonderful decks w/hot tub & brick patio for entertaining, new carpet plus more! Kate Phillips 436-4100

**827 BROOKLYN AVENUE. \$329,000**

This 3/1 is close to excellent transportation shopping and Lake Merritt. Refinished hardwood floors are beautiful especially in the living room with fireplace and dining room with built-ins.

Carol Robbiano ext. 292

BY APPOINTMENT

**TRADITION PLUS TECHNOLOGY \$849,500**

Premier new construction in Montclair. Estimated completion June 2001. Designed to incorporate time-tested residential design concepts, robust structural specifications, and advanced communication infrastructure. 3BD incl. Lux. mstr. suite, 3.5BA. Office plus rm. Cook's kit., fam. rm., & frm1 LR.

Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos 339-9780

**MARVELOUS 3+3+ ON LOVELY GROUNDS..... \$569,000**

Enjoy swimming and badminton without leaving home. The hardwood floors sparkle and the space is wonderful!

Carol Robbiano ext. 292

**WONDERFUL CONTEMPORARY ... \$569,000**

A light open main level is created w/a spacious LR, frm1 DR, kit/breakfast area. 2BD/2BA. The lower level consists of 3BD/2BA w/large sitting rm. & fam. area. Home offices would be perfect on this level. Fresh paint in & out, new carpet & appliances make this a must see! Move in condition. Carol Robbiano ext. 292

**MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION! \$439,000**

Gracious 2-story traditional in Upper Glenview. 4BD/2BA. Large rooms. Original details. Freshly painted interior & refinished hrdw. Partial basement, yard.

Christine Christensen ext. 242

**MAXWELL PARK! \$295,000**

Spacious 4BD with charm, hardwood floors, built-in cabinets, formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen, huge basement with expansion potential.

Kate Phillips 436-4100

LAND**DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Level lot 15,000sqft waiting for your ideas. Zoned C30. Be creative! Please call for more information.

Carol Robbiano ext. 292

ATTENTION BUILDERS - GENTLE DOWNSLOPE LOT

Shepherd Canyon Area. Located on quiet cul-de-sac. Area of new construction. Homes selling nearby in excess of \$900K! Build your dream home for less than buying a newly constructed home!

Frank Hennefer 654-6461

THREE CONTIGUOUS UPSLOPES!

Capture Canyon and partial Bay views from the top of these lots. Minutes from Montclair Village and easy freeway access.

Carol Robbiano ext. 292

BUILD FOR LESS!

Why pay top dollar for someone else's construction? Build your own home for less & save money! Gentle up slope lot in Montclair.

Frank Hennefer 654-6461

TWO CONTIGUOUS LOTS

Oakland hills - Montclair. Upslope lots w/utilities in street. Area of expensive new construction near Broadway Terrace.

Frank Hennefer 654-6461

MONTCLAIR INFILL OPPORTUNITY

Sunny up slope on tranquil yet convenient Valley View Road. Call for URL for photo, map and information.

Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos 339-9780

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND

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• WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484

<http://www.wellsandbennett.com>

• LAKE TAHOE 1-800-858-2463 Vacation Rentals/Sales

• WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484

<http://www.wellsandbennett.com>

Sales

FROM PAGE B6

3038 Shane Dr - \$225,000
 518 Tewksbury Av - \$215,000
 2555 Treewise Wy - \$235,000
 3657 West Ct - \$967,272

SAN LEANDRO

629 Begier Av - \$460,000
 385 Caliente Dr - \$213,000
 3906 Carmel Wy - \$280,000
 1132 Carpenter #206 - \$130,000
 14342 Corvallis St - \$315,000
 1510 Fairmont Dr - \$262,000
 2217 Fairway Dr - \$345,000
 866 Hutchings Dr - \$285,000
 14418 Outrigger #72 - \$340,000
 1599 Thrush Av - \$245,000

SAN LORENZO

2220 Compass Cv - \$490,000
 16084 P Largavista - \$229,000
 16187 Via Karl - \$299,000
 146 Via Linares - \$255,000

By the numbers

BELMONT
 TOTAL SALES: 9
 LOWEST PRICE: \$285,500
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$708,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$412,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$433,056

DUBLIN
 TOTAL SALES: 9
 LOWEST PRICE: \$285,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,700,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$560,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$818,944

EL SOBRANTE
 TOTAL SALES: 1
 PRICE: \$650,000

FAYETTEVILLE
 TOTAL SALES: 2
 LOWEST PRICE: \$192,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$260,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$226,000

OAKLAND
 TOTAL SALES: 48
 LOWEST PRICE: \$109,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$972,927
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$383,571

REEDLEY
 TOTAL SALES: 25
 LOWEST PRICE: \$80,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$967,272
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$230,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$273,631

SAN LEANDRO
 TOTAL SALES: 10
 LOWEST PRICE: \$130,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$460,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$287,500

SAN LORENZO
 TOTAL SALES: 4
 LOWEST PRICE: \$229,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$490,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$318,250

**206 ILLINOIS, VALLEJO**

Experience the nostalgia of a bygone era . . .

- 3 bedrooms / 1 bath / bonus room
- 5,200 sq ft lot / 1,034 sq ft home
- Garden w/fruit trees & flowers
- Built-in cabinets/drawers
- Enclosed porch w/oal stove
- New roof, paint, & water heater
- Detached garage & shed

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ALAMEDA
 NEW LISTING
 1021 DORIS COURT
 3Bedrooms/1 Bath
 Charming Home located on a lovely street! \$375,000

1248 ROSEWOOD WAY
 Single level bldg.
 3+Bedrm, 2+ Baths with sun room \$399,000

2101 SHORELINE DR. #276
 2 BDRM, 1.5 baths. Vaulted ceilings, large space in living room \$299,000

1600 FERN SIDE BLVD.
 Craftman, Many built-ins - Remodeled, sold in 2 BDRM plus sunroom. 1.5 Baths \$469,000

2101 SHORELINE DR. #274
 2 BDRM, sold in 2 BDRM \$269,000

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Real Estate Career Night

Have you been contemplating a career change? Looking for an exciting & challenging career? We will help you get licensed & provide you the best training in the Real Estate industry.

Call Dena or John at (510) 758-5637 for details.



Open Sunday 2-1:30



157 Hagar Avenue, Piedmont
 Offered at \$775,000

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Anian Pettit Tunney
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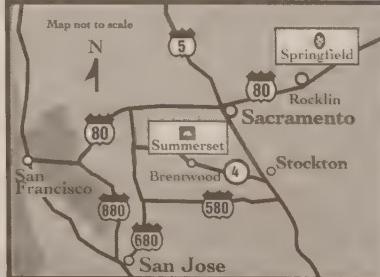
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Fixed-rate mortgages up for fourth consecutive week

■ ARM rate lowest in almost two years

McLean, VA - In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.14 percent, with an average cost of 0.9 point (1 point equals 1 percent of the loan amount), for the week ending April 20.

This bellwether rated crept up from last week's average of 7.04 percent. This time last year, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 8.16 percent.

The average for the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage this week is 6.60 percent, with an average cost of 1 point, up from last week's average of 6.55 percent. A year ago, the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.82 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 6.08 percent this week, with an average 0.9 point, down from last week's average of 6.15 percent.

This time last year, the 1-year ARM averaged 6.76 percent. This is the lowest the 1-year ARM has been since the week ending July 30, when it averaged 5.99 percent.

"Mortgage rates crept up over the end of last week and into this week, as the market ruled out any intervention by the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) before the next FOMC meeting," said Robert Van Order, Freddie Mac chief economist.

"But following the release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which indicated that inflation remains in check, the Fed unexpectedly lowered interest rates by a half of a percent."

"Since the Fed's cut influences other short-term rates more than long-term rates, we may see the ARM rates fall a bit more. We also expect the impact on long-term rates will be minimal."

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation established by Congress in 1970 to support homeownership and rental housing. Freddie Mac purchases single-family and multifamily residential mortgages and mortgage-related securities. Over the years,

Freddie Mac has opened doors for one in six homebuyers and more than two million renters in America.

Remodelors learn about stone surfaces

■ Public invited to NARI monthly meeting

National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), San Francisco Bay Area Chapter invites the public to its meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, at Eurostone, Inc., 1050 Aladdin Ave., in San Leandro.

The meeting of contractors, architects, kitchen and bath designers, interior designers and other professionals affiliated with the remodeling industry, will focus on the numerous types and uses of natural stone in remodeling projects.

Experts will discuss features and characteristics of natural and custom-made marble, granite and limestone tops. They will review which materials are suitable for a broad range of uses, and discuss new techniques for specifying stone products.

NARI is a not-for-profit trade association working to educate and enhance the professionalism of the residential and commercial remodeling industries while serving as an ally to homeowners.

Bay Area members include professional contractors, sub-contractors, architects, consultants, interior designers, certified kitchen/bath designers, as well as suppliers and professional service consultants.

A ticket costs \$25 and includes a full buffet dinner. For reservations and information about the meeting call Bill Wichter at 415-675-9776.

Nationwide the association has more than 6,000 member companies representing over 40,000 remodeling industry professionals. NARI members pledge to uphold the Association's Code of Ethics and are dedicated to professionalism and integrity.

Turn to Hills Newspapers for up-to-date real estate information



Ultimate Income - \$1,197,000.00
6 Unit Victorian Mansion in great location. Fully renovated, upgrade foundation, electrical, Plumbing & heating! Granite topes, refinished hardwood floors throughout & remodeled kitchens. Off street parking. Good cash flow

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Your HOUSE DETECTIVE

As I burst into the Clearing I saw her and froze. She had it all: looks, charm, and enough upstairs to be more than a little interesting. She eyed me with that certain something seasoned pros can't resist.

No question about it -- she had

Curb Appeal.

The story continues: click to

WWW.NEDDERSEN.COM



Meet Dylan & Skeeter.

Dylan wants his own room, a sandbox, a bicycle, a basketball hoop, a big yard, a swing set...

Skeeter wants down.

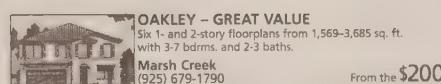


A new home. With room for everyone in the family.

Take off your shoes. Put your feet in the grass. It's one of the cool things about having a yard. There's plenty of room to play. Relax. Or in some cases...fetch. Because owning a KB home means having space for everyone in the family. Inside and out.

Feel right. At home.

KBHOME



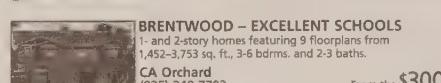
OAKLEY - GREAT VALUE
Six 1- and 2-story floorplans from 1,569-3,685 sq. ft. with 3-7 bdrms. and 2-3 baths.

From the \$200s



ANTIOCH - PRE-MODEL PRICES
Five plans from 1,799-2,698 sq. ft., 2-6 bdrms., and 2-3 baths. Nestled under picturesque Mt. Diablo.

From the high \$200s



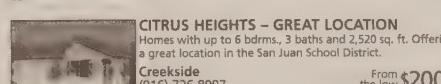
BRENTWOOD - EXCELLENT SCHOOLS
1- and 2-story homes featuring 9 floorplans from 1,452-2,753 sq. ft., 3-6 bdrms. and 2-3 baths.

From the \$300s



NATOMAS - NEW RELEASE
1- and 2-story homes, 3-6 bdrms. and 2,318 sq. ft. Close to downtown Sacramento, shopping, dining, I-5 and I-80.

From the low \$200s



CITRUS HEIGHTS - GREAT LOCATION
Homes with up to 6 bdrms., 3 baths and 2,520 sq. ft. Offering a great location in the San Juan School District.

From the low \$200s



ROCKLIN - DESIRABLE LOCATION
New 1- and 2-story homes from 1,739-2,857 sq. ft. Adjacent to Stanford Ranch. Easy access to all fwys.

From the high \$200s



ROCKLIN - MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY
1- and 2-story homes with 3-5 bdrms., 2-4 baths and up to 4,017 sq. ft. Located next to rolling hills and open space.

From the low \$300s



WEST SACRAMENTO - MODELS OPEN
2-story floorplans with 3-5 bdrms. and 1,964-2,504 sq. ft. Located at Southport near downtown.

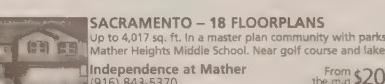
From the low \$200s



LAGUNA - GREAT LOCATION

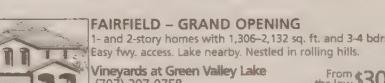
Six large 1- and 2-story floorplans from 1,739-2,857 sq. ft. with 3-5 bdrms. Located in Laguna West.

From the mid \$200s



SACRAMENTO - 18 FLOORPLANS
Up to 4,017 sq. ft. in a master plan community with parks and Mater Heights Middle School. Near golf course and lakes.

From the mid \$200s



FAIRFIELD - GRAND OPENING
1- and 2-story homes with 1,306-2,132 sq. ft. and 3-4 bdrms. Easy fwy. access. Lake nearby. Nested in rolling hills.

From the low \$300s



FAIRFIELD - NOW SELLING
New homes featuring 3-6 bdrms. with 1,968-3,530 sq. ft. Family-oriented community with easy access to I-80.

From the high \$300s



VACAVILLE - GREAT LOCATION
1- and 2-story homes with 3-4 bdrms. and 3-6 bdrms. Large master bdrms. and walk-in closets. Easy access to I-80.

From the mid \$200s



ANTELOPE - COMING SOON
1- and 2-story floorplans from 1,755-2,857 sq. ft. with up to 6 bdrms. Near regional shopping center.

From the low \$300s



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YEAR
HOME

National March home sales near record level

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

WASHINGTON (April 25, 2001)

- Spurred by lower mortgage interest rates, existing single-family home sales rose to a near-record pace in March, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Existing-home sales increased 4.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.44 million units in March from a pace of 5.19 million units in February - reaching the second highest monthly rate on record. Last month's sales activity was 3.8

percent above the 5.24-million unit pace in March 2000.

Dr. David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, described sales as "phenomenal." "This is just shy of the all-time record pace of 5.45 million in June 1999, and is the second-highest level of sales activity ever recorded," he said.

"Clearly, mortgage interest rates that are near 30-year lows are bringing many buyers into the market at the beginning of the traditional home-buying season, and we're

counting on the Federal Reserve to continue its accommodative interest rate policy to keep housing strong," he added.

NAR President Richard A. Mendenhall said current sales are the hallmark of a historically strong year. "We've been making upward revisions to our forecast all year, and we now expect existing-home sales to rise 1.6 percent for all of 2000 to a total of 5.19 million, which will be the second highest on record," he said.

"We don't expect every month to be as strong as March, but anything close to a five-million sales pace is exceptionally strong - we'll be well within that range for the rest of the year," he predicted.

The national median existing-home price was \$143,500 in March, up 6.5 percent from March 2000 when the median price was \$134,700. The median is the midpoint, which is a typical market price where half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Real Estate Advertising Deadlines

Space Reservations:

MONDAY, 12 Noon

Copy Requiring Typesetting:

MONDAY, 5 pm

Copy & Artwork

TUESDAY, 12 Noon

Open Home Guide

WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon

Coming Soon



1063 Mandana Blvd., Oakland
A vintage 20's home in Crocker Highlands with an ideal floor plan in beautiful condition and level out to a large garden. 4BR/3BA, den, office, and upgraded new kitchen. Offered at \$789,000

Judith Cain
Office: 339.0400/209
Residence: 893.0400
GRUBBCO.COM

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed



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Coming Soon



11 Cambridge Avenue, Piedmont
Charming Piedmont home with a rare legal second unit. Wonderful architecture and great location. Two + bedrooms and one + bath with a sunny garden.

Offered at \$619,000
Angela Wei Grubb
Office: 339.0400/202
Residence: 658.8834
GRUBBCO.COM

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

FILBERT STREET LOFTS

Open Sunday • April 29 • 12-3 pm



2828 Filbert Street, Oakland

Unique urban live-work lofts. All lofts have multi-levels and are excellent for artist, artisans, people working from home and those who simply enjoy flexible, open living spaces. This West Oakland location is minutes from Downtown Oakland, BART and the Bay Bridge for a quick commute to S.F. financial district.

Offered at \$195,000 to \$385,000



Donna DeBardi
Senior Sales Consultant
Bus: (510) 339-6460 ext. 345
Res: (510) 251-2274

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PACIFIC UNION

UPPER ROCKRIDGE

Open Sunday • April 29 • 2-4:30 pm



686 Florence Avenue • Oakland

Dramatic architecture, sophisticated design elements and quality craftsmanship are evident throughout this wonderful 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home built in 2000 by noted architect/builder Gary York. Custom finishes include natural stone, designer lighting artistic plumbing fixtures and antique wood floors. Fabulous Upper Rockridge cul-de-sac location with beautiful hill views.

Offered at \$848,000



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Bus. (510) 339-6460 x 326
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LENDER	30YR CONVENTIONAL RATE+POINTS(APR)	30YR JUMBO RATE+POINTS(APR)	7/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	5/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	3/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	Additional Programs
Cal Fed Lending	6.625+.741(6.75)	7+.795(7.75)	NA	6.25+.775(6.77)	6.25+.245(6.83)	Ask about our FHA and CAL STRS Loan Program, \$3,000 first
925-256-9667	6.75+.291(6.83)	7.125+.303(7.15)		6.375+.458(6.72)	6.375+.0(6.84)	Home buyer grant, Free pre-qualification. For different pricing options call (925)-256-9667.
CMG Mortgage	6.75+.175(.71)	6.875+.2(7.12)	6.5+.0(6.59)	6.125+.1375(6.34)	5.875+.1(6.10)	Aggressive financing for people with less than perfect credit. Refinances, Pre-qualifications, Second mortgages. Call Mike 7 days a week. Open Saturdays and Sundays. 30yr Jumbo rate was quoted wrong on 2/20/01 AND 2/27/01.
800-958-5339	6.875+.1(7.06)	7.125+.1(7.27)		6.375+.75(6.53)	6.125+.1(6.30)	
	7.125+.0(7.09)	7.5+.0(7.54)		6.75+.0(6.84)	6.5+.0(6.59)	
Downey Savings	6.625+.2(6.90)	6.875+.2(7.14)	NA	NA	NA	Direct lender, 40 years experience. All types of borrowers. Fixed and ARM mortgages.
& Loan						
800-798-2148						
Mortgage Market	7.125+.0(7.25)	7.5+.0(7.62)	6.875+.0(6.99)	6.75+.0(6.87)	6.25+.0(6.36)	Credit problems, bankrupt, difficult loans our specialty. All government loans. 100% loans, credit lines, construction. 20 years of service. Appointments anytime! 1-800-837-LOAN.
800-837-5626						

Information is current as of April 24, 2001. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$200,000. Minimum down payment 3%. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The APR is the cost of a mortgage expressed as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homeowners to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM-adjustable rate mortgage LTV-loan to value. MI-mortgage insurance. NA-not available. NO-rate not quoted. Lenders, to be listed in this paid column, call 1-800-CNS-8525. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 2001 Consumer News Systems



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NEW REDWOOD HEIGHTS LISTING
Open Sunday • April 29 • 2-4:30 pm



3630 Monterey Blvd., Oakland

Charming spacious Mediterranean with 3 bedrooms in main level. Beautiful formal living room and formal dining room with lovely details. Kitchen has upgraded appliances and some cosmetics could really shine. 2 plus room bath and workshop off garage. Extra large attached two-car garage, with room to spare. Don't miss this great house.

Offered at \$519,000



Diane Earl McCan
Your Redwood Heights Specialist
Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 339-6460 ext. 352

PACIFIC UNION



NEAR ALBANY/CLOSE TO BART

2BR 1 BA well maintained, Fireplace, laundry hook-ups, 1 car attached garage, comp shingle roof, #0102519

Michele Manzone 510-662-8545

BERKELEY

SWEET BERKELEY COTTAGE NEW LISTING
Adorable cottage in great Berkeley location close to everything 2438 Bryon St. (Open Sun 1-4) 1 BR Living Room w/Fireplace formal dining rm, private backyard w/deck & detached garage #01012509 Jamie Lake (510) 662-8487

OAKLAND

LOFT AT JACK LONDON SQUARE
311 4th St (Open Sun 1-5) Dramatic post-modern loft in historic Oakland. Light filled live/work loft minutes from downtown Oakland. 18ft. ceilings, custom kitchen, separate bedroom on skylites, secured parking. Jamie Lake (510) 662-8487

RICHMOND VIEW

SECLUDED TREASURE
3BR 2 BA 6040 Arlinton (Open Sun 1-4) Sunsets from the patio, great sweeping views, big yard! Clean & fresh, Polished Oak Floors, 2 fireplaces, near WildCat Canyon #0101073 www.cynthiaburke.com (510) 662-8528



CLASSIC CRAFTSMAN HOME ON EL CERRITO BORDER
431 Carlton (Open Sun 2-4) 4 BR 2.5 BA, over 2600 Sq. Ft. Formal Dining Room w/spectacular built-in buffet, Fatto in bookcases, Central Hall & staircase w/stained glass, Gleaming refinished hardwood floors, seismic work done, newer sewer, new interior paint, basement & bonus rm, detached 2 car garage & carport, www.carladellazopa.com (510) 662-8588

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THE FINEST HOMES
IN THE FINEST LOCATION...

Exquisite estate homes in a guard-gated
community in the San Ramon Valley!

Prices start from \$1.3 million.

- Five stunning floorplans ranging from over 3,200 sq. ft. to over 5,200 sq. ft.
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- Highly rated San Ramon Valley Unified Schools

Please visit our sales center for more information: From I-680 take the Bollinger Canyon Rd. exit. Go west 1 1/2 mi. to Norris Canyon Rd. Turn left and proceed 1 1/4 mi. to Ashbourne Dr. Turn left into the community and proceed to sales center on the left. (925) 743-1000

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Klamath



Just Reduced! \$379,000
Bay Farm Island single story home with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and a 2-car garage. Walk to top rated schools, shopping, transportation and shoreline.

Lafayette



Conveniently Located! \$949,000
A lovely Traditional home featuring 3 bedrooms, upgrades throughout, and a beautifully landscaped yard.
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Alamo

Custom New Construction! \$2,350,000
Featuring 4 bedrooms plus library, gourmet kitchen, 5600 sq.ft., on 3 acres, level backyard and stunning views for miles.

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Berkeley

West Berkeley Location \$299,000
Open Sunday 1-4. Featuring 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors, wall-to-wall carpet, large kitchen, high ceilings, 2-car detached garage, and on a large 6,000 sq. ft. lot.

Castro Valley

Lovely Starter Home! \$310,000
3 bedrooms, 1.25 baths home that is perfect for entertaining with bonus room, sky light, wood burning insert, great garden area, and fruit trees in backyard.

Pleasant Hill

Modern And Spacious! \$629,000
Featuring 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, custom decor throughout, oak kitchen with breakfast area, beautifully landscaped yards and a spa with waterfall.



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Address & Realty Size Hours Price

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Open Sunday Nancy Gosselin, 510-814-4815 Harbor Bay Realty900 Grand St. 480/2.5BA 2-4 \$375,000
Open Sat & Sun Fred Hobbs, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-11381320 Central Ave 500/2-3A 2-4 \$330,000
Open Sunday Karen Fry 510-521-5475, Kane & Associates200 Ratio Rd 480/3 - BA 2-4 \$749,000
Open SAT & SUN Diane Yeall, 510-814-4824, Ridge LIne 510-814-4840 Harbor Bay Realty712 Shubin Bay 380/2 + BA 2-4 \$735,000
Open Sunday Connie Hanna, 510-814-4814 Harbor Bay Realty33 Lawrence Rd 480/2- BA 2-4 \$689,000
Open Sunday John Bergman 510-814-5485, Kane & Associates153 Sweet 480/2BA 2-4 \$885,000
Open Sunday Jenkins Payne, 510-814-4848 Harbor Bay Realty649 Waterview 380/2 - BA 2-4 \$648,000
Open Sunday Paul Jolley, 510-814-4784, Harbor Bay Realty141 Cumberland 480/2- BA 2-4 \$638,000
Open Sunday Valerie Newman 510-531-7214, Kane & Associates1612 Cornell Dr 4 + BD/1BA 2-4 \$625,000
Open Sat & Sun Sigma Nelson, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1103943 Pacific 280-BA 2-4 \$625,000
Open Sunday Sally Radloff 510-523-2314, Kane & Associates2601 Van Buren 380/2- BA 2-4 \$579,000
Karen Kollerberg 510-522-4682, Kane & Associates2000 Bayview Dr. 380/2- BA 2-4 \$566,000
Mark Wynn 510-522-5887, Jennifer Spatz 510-521-193614 Moss Pointe 380/2 - BA 2-4 \$565,000
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Eunice Edwards, Prudential CA Realty 510-763-77165 Whipple Ct. 480/2 - BA 2-4 \$457,000
Open Sunday Brian Williams, 510-814-4831 Harbor Bay Realty428 McDonnell 280/2 - BA 2-4 \$469,000
Richard Powell, 510-814-4837 Harbor Bay Realty575 Sheriff 380/2BA 2-4 \$459,500
Open Sunday Steve Brandt, 510-814-4883 Harbor Bay Realty1353 Grizzly Peak 5 - bd/2ba 2-4 \$1,350,000
Open Sun. RED DIAL REALTY, Redditch, 510-280-2198257 Hillcrest Rd. 480/3.5BA 2-4 \$999,000
Milan Wilson, 510-652-0611 La Sale Properties910 Alvarado 480/2BA 2-4 \$965,000
Open Sun. Clemon Tinsley, Prudential CA 510-384-20106850 Charing Cross 480/3 - BA 2-4 \$895,000
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Open Sunday Ruth Frazee, 510-652-2133 et 147 Templeton Leverette Co.1921 San Antonio 380/1BA 2-5 \$875,000
Gail Erick, 510-652-133 et 133 Templeton Leverette Co.1341 Portland Ave 3 + BD/1BA 1-4 \$889,000
Open Sun. Shirley Border Marquet & Hall Kaufman, Village Associates R.E.1033 Armit Dr. 480/4BA 2-4 \$1,199,000
Open Sun. Bonne Hirsch, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-04001165 Estates Dr. 480/4BA 2-4 \$1,195,000
Open Sun. Prudential side of 339-3400 Karen Star, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-04007291 Wild Current Wy. 780/5BA 2-4 \$699,000
Open Sun/Montclair Jeffrey Lynn 510-339-5460 et 317 Pacific Union1805 Arrowhead 280/2 - BA 1D-4 \$699,000
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Open Sun. Montclair Sandy Ciaro, Prudential 510-339-02901033 Armit Dr. 480/4BA 2-4 \$1,199,000
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Open Sun. Montclair Vicki Ram, 510-339-4700 Colwell Banker3511 Lawrence Rd. 3 - BD/2BA 2-4 \$635,000
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Open Sun. Montclair George Richardson, R.E.S.V.C. 510-569-34997032 Westwoodland 480/2/BA S1U-1-5 \$1,180,000
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Janet 510-845-0200

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C.B. Rose 510-339-9290

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*** Newark/San Leandro** \$39

St. Mary's

FROM PAGE C1

"My mark was really off," Johnson said about her less-than stellar jump.

"I figure I'm going to have to (triple) jump 39-high and 18-high in the long jump (in the state meet) to score points. The long jump leader is at about 19 feet right now."

Shameka Savage won the 400 in 59.3 seconds, defeating Martine Donovan of Piedmont who finished second in 59.3.

"We knew that both St. Mary's and Piedmont had good teams, so we had to come here and show we can run hard as a team," Savage said. Savage also ran third leg in the 4x100 relay, which won in 49.6. The Panthers failed to push Piedmont to a new school record and the Highlanders finished in 50.8, 5 off the record. The 4x100 team consisted of Quiana Plump, Johnson, Savage and Harper. Harper ran anchor in place of Danielle Stokes, who was slightly injured and concentrated on the 300 hurdles. Stokes won that event in 49.1.

On the boys side, the biggest story was the reemergence of Rudy Vasquez in the 3200. "He has been sick for a long time," coach Don Lawson said, "and it has dragged on. He would work out a couple of days, then have to take one off. We're getting into some real hard work



STEPPING HIGH, Haili Guy easily won the 300 hurdles at a tri-meet at Piedmont High School on April 24, crossing the finish line in 38.9 seconds.

now and he ran 9:45 at Arcadia."

"I'm slowly running better and better," Vasquez said. "My coach has been doing (out) everything he can to get me ready for the big meets. My legs feel heavy today."

Vasquez ran 10:06.1 to win the 3200 here, almost a minute in front of the next runner.

All in all, it was just another

day on the track for the powerful St. Mary's team.

NOTES:

SCHEDULES ... Members of the St. Mary's team will run in the Top Eight meet Saturday at James Logan High in Union ... The Panthers will also run in the Sacramento Meet of Champions on May 5, a gathering which

brings together many of the top athletes from the North Coast, Central Coast and Sac-Joaquin sections. It will also be run at Hughes Stadium, site of the 2001 state track and field championships in June — and after that comes the Bay Shore Athletic League Championships, which will be held at Piedmont on May 10 and May 12.

Scores

FROM PAGE C1

1,600 relay St. Mary's 2:40; LJ: Welch (SM) 20-6½; HJ: Stern (SM) 5-10; T&J: Lee (P) 41-2; SP: Drummer (SM) 45-0; Discus: Polair (P) 117-4; PV: not contested

PREP GIRLS

HSLL

St. Mary's 116, St. Patrick 11

400 relay St. Mary's 49.6; 1,600: Duffy (SM) 5:30; 100H: Shaw (SM) 16.5; 400: Savage (SM) 59.3; 100: Johnson (SM) 12.6; 800: Vega (SM) 2:25; 1200H: Stern (SM) 4:10; 1600H: Polair (P) 5:24; 3,200: Chastey (SM) 14:28; 1,600 relay: St. Mary's 4:07.4; LJ: Harper (SM) 15-1; HJ: Shaw (SM) 5-3; T&J: Pratt (SM) 30-1; SP: Warren (SM) 44-10%; Discus: Warren 133-5½; PV: Marx (P) 8-0.

Volleyball

PREP BOYS

ACCAL

	W	L	GB
El Cerrito	5	0	—
De Anza	4	1	1
Alameda	2	2	2½
Richmond	2	3	3
Encinal	1	4	4
Berkeley	0	4	4½

Wednesday's result

El Cerrito d. Berkeley 15-1, 15-4, 15-10

Tuesday's results

El Cerrito d. Alameda 15-7, 15-4, 15-13.

STANDINGS

Baseball

PREP

ACCAL

	W	L	GB
Piedmont	6	1	—
El Cerrito	4	2	1
Pinole Valley	4	2	1
Encinal	3	3	2½
Alameda	3	3	2½
De Anza	2	4	3
Richmond	0	6	5

Wednesday's results

Berkeley 5, El Cerrito 4 (9)

Pinole Valley 13, Richmond 0

Alameda 2, De Anza 1

Bay Shore Athletic League

	W	L	GB
Piedmont	6	1	—
St. Mary's	6	2	½
Salesian	5	2	1
John Swett	5	3	1½
Albany	4	3	2
St. Patrick	4	4	2½
St. Joseph	3	5	3½
Kennedy	1	6	5
St. Elizabeth	0	7	6

Wednesday's results

St. Mary's 5, Albany 1

Piedmont 9, Kennedy 0

St. Patrick 34, St. Elizabeth 2

Salesian 3, St. Joseph 0

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Signing

FROM PAGE C1

in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League with 29 points (10 goals, nine assists) said that

he was told by Warming that his team needed a forward who could play with his back to the goal, one of Venturi's strengths.

"Coach told me I was playing right away,"

dominated the game."

On the mound, Fielder had struck out four and didn't allow a run in seven innings.

He allowed two solo home runs, a walk and 10-1, 4-3 BSA, in the fourth.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Swimming

The El Cerrito Gators year-round youth swim team is open to swimmers 5-18 who can swim one length of the pool.

The Gators' program emphasizes fitness, teamwork and offers opportunities for healthy competition. The club accommodates all levels of swimmers and focuses on perfecting technique, improving endurance and increasing speed. Swimmers and parents are encouraged to meet the coaches and try out one day at no charge. Monthly cost is \$41 per swimmer. Monthly family rates are \$62 for two swimmers and \$83 for three. For information, call 215-4375.

The Silver Dolphin Swim Club, a new U.S. Swimming-affiliated team, is recruiting swimmers ages 5-18. Practices and home meets take place in the new indoor pool at the Richmond Sun Center. Practices are held in the afternoons Monday through Friday. For more information, call 528-8227 or 524-9138.

Mavs soccer tryouts

The ACCSYL Mavericks Select Soccer Team will hold tryouts

for boys and girls through April 29. The girls' tryouts will be at Fielding and Gabe fields on Fifth Street near Gilman in Berkeley. The boys' tryouts will be held at the same fields, as well as Broderick, Cypress Avenue near 47th Street. ■ Under-15 girls: April 29, 1 p.m. at Fielding. ■ Under-14 girls: April 29, 1 p.m. at Gabe. ■ Under-13 boys: April 29, 3 p.m. at Fielding. ■ Under-12 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at Gabe. ■ Under-11 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at Gabe. ■ Under-10 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-9 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-8 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-7 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-6 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-5 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-4 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-3 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-2 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT. ■ Under-1 boys: April 29, 1 p.m. at BT.

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+ Wednesday's results

St. Joseph d. Piedmont

St. Elizabeth d. Piedmont

St. Joseph d. Salesian

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St

Arts



BILL MANN

Multimedia Notes

Play ball, already

When I was growing up as a baseball-obsessed kid — I subscribed to *Baseball Digest* and devoured the sports pages each day — I remember seeing a few stories about the legendary home-run hitter from the Detroit Tigers, Hank Greenberg. But not nearly as many as I saw about Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Mickey Mantle, or Lou Gehrig. I'd always wanted to know more about this man with the Ruthian home-run total.

I recently went to see the 90-minute documentary "The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg" with an Oakland friend at the Jewish Film Festival up in Santa Rosa to learn more about this interesting, not-as-well-known baseball pioneer. The theater was packed, and the audience left in high spirits.

You don't have to be Jewish, this gentle can attest, to thoroughly enjoy this upbeat and critically acclaimed film (but, of course, couldn't hurt). This delightful documentary's writer/director Aliva Kempner calls Greenberg "The Jewish Jackie Robinson." The towering slugger was the first Jewish baseball star; as you'll see in the film, making its TV debut Sunday night at 7:30 on cable's Cinemax.

Back in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, as the Joe DiMaggio/Marilyn Monroe coupling proved, Hollywood stars and baseball players were this country's biggest heroes. But Greenberg was different. He came from New York's Lower East Side, the son of Jewish immigrants, and he almost matched the iconic Babe's home-run record of 60. Greenberg hit 58 in 1938, and some of his fans interviewed in the film still believe that pitchers wouldn't give him good pitches to hit because they didn't want a Jew to break Ruth's record.

"Greenberg" is NOT a baseball movie, but more a historical/sociological study using big-band music and a wealth of archival news footage. Greenberg, who endured slurs from bigoted fans all his career, also played in a city, Detroit, that was a hotbed of anti-Semitism: Auto maker Henry Ford despised Jews, and radio demagogue and Hitler sympathizer Father Coughlin operated out of a Detroit suburb.

In Sunday's film, Jewish baseball fans speak here of how Greenberg broke several stereotypes: How at 6'4", he towered above most Jewish men (not to mention other ballplayers). He also says Greenberg fan and lawyer Alan Dershowitz, defied the stereotype that Jews weren't good athletes. And the big slugger also came along at a time when Hitler and his nutty racial theories were ascendant, plus he served as a much-needed role model for many Jews. Among Greenberg fans interviewed in the film were the late actor Walter Matthau and Michigan U.S. Sen. Carl Levin and his brother, U.S. Rep. Sander Levin.

Greenberg was also a ladies' man who always kept his cool. "There was always some leather-jung yelling at me on the field," Greenberg said smiling. "I found it was a spur to make me play better. As soon as you struck out, you weren't only a bum — you were a JEWISH bum."

New York Times sports-writer Ira Berkow, who collaborated with Greenberg on his autobiography, notes that "there were a number of Jewish players before him who changed their names. Hank didn't." Though not particularly religious, Greenberg took his duties as a Jewish role model seriously, once taking himself out of the lineup on Yom Kippur; his teammates were supportive.

And when Greenberg went away to the military during World War II for four years, he staged an amazing comeback for a player who'd been away so long. In his last season, 1947, he was traded to the National League's Pittsburgh Pirates. That was the year Robinson broke into baseball, and it

'One Night' is one stupid film

■ Even Liv Tyler's pulchritude can't save this stinker — what was Michael Douglas thinking?

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

Should we be worried about David Letterman? On Tuesday night, there he was, fawning over the lovely Liv Tyler, telling her how great her new movie "One Night at McCool's" is. He said the movie was really cool and really great and that he really hoped people would go see it. That's paraphrasing, except for the slew of realists.

His brain must have been addled by Tyler's cat eyes, giraffe legs and hearty cleavage. There's very little to command in this violent, sexed-up and dumbed-down version of "Rashomon," except for Tyler's glorious big-girl beauty and Paul Reiser's sharp sense of delivery, and there's not a single character to like.

All in all, this is a mean-spirited embarrassment, which would be easily dismissed as rental fodder if it weren't for Michael Douglas' involvement as producer and co-star. When the guy who started his producing career with "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" stoops this low, you've got to sit up, take notice and wonder what went wrong.

Douglas plays a bit man named Mr. Burmeister, hired by an ex-bartender named Randy



MATT DILLON is just one of the men who fall for Liv Tyler in "One Night at McCool's."

(Matt Dillon) to kill his troublesome girlfriend Jewel (Tyler). Burmeister is a randy old coot with a pompadour and gold chains, a visual joke that only goes so far. It's as if Douglas, with his career full of nasty roles behind him, had to roll in something vile in order to shake off the back-to-back class acts he starred in last year, "Traffic" and "Wonder Boys."

Dopey Randy tells Burmeis-

ter his whole history with Jewel, the way back to the night when they met at McCool's. She was being beaten up by a thug named Utah (Andrew Silverstein, aka Andrew Dice Clay) and Randy rescued her. She goes home with him, they have great sex, it turns out to be a setup to rob Randy, Utah ends up dead and so on.

The happy couple set up housekeeping. Jewel is as house-

hungry as a Bay Area renter. She fills Randy's shabby little Victorian cottage with upholstery samples and starts repainting the walls, meanwhile manipulating him into becoming a cat burglar to get her the material goods she wants (a DVD player tops the list). No doubt Camille Paglia would have an interesting take on the decision to make the

See MCCOOLS, Page C5

ARTS BEAT

Community Chorus and Orchestra performing world premiere work

BERKELEY — The Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Arlene Sagan, will give three performances of the world premiere of Berkeley composer Julian White's "The Children's Hour," a work for chorus, orchestra, and mezzo-soprano. Soloist is Miriam Abramowitz.

The program also includes Beethoven's *Choral Fantasia* for piano, orchestra, and chorus, featuring pianist Matthew Edwards and selections from Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*, poems of Robert Frost set to music.

The concerts will be Saturday, May 5, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 12, at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 13, at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1640 Addison St. Admis-

sion is free; donations are encouraged.

For more information, see BCCO's Web site, www.bcco.org or call 510-528-2145.

Strings orchestra has some openings

BERKELEY — The New Millennium Strings Orchestra, conducted by Lauren Jones, has begun rehearsals for the opening set of concerts of its fourth season. Planned for May 26 and 27,

the concerts will feature pianist Charles Worth in Carl Maria von Weber's "Konzertstück" for piano and orchestra. Other works on the program will be "Espana" by Emmanuel Chabrier, George Bizet's "Symphony in C," and

Weber's "Invitation to the Dance."

There are openings in the viola, cello and bass sections. Interested musicians are invited to

apply for seating. Rehearsals are from 7:30 to 10 p.m. on Tuesdays at Arlington Community Church in Kensington.

Dues for the season are \$10, which helps pay expenses.

The non-profit group plays benefit concerts for worthy projects. For information, phone the music director at 528-4633 or orchestra manager Hal Bosworth at 526-3331.

Celebration of 'Old Roses' returns May 20

EL CERRITO — The annual "Celebration of Old Roses" will be held on May 20 at the El Cerrito Community Center on Moeser Avenue, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (From 880, exit at Central Avenue and go East. Turn left on San Pablo and right on Moeser.) Admission is free.

This is an opportunity for rose lovers to find out more

about heirloom roses. Stroll through the exhibit hall to see hundreds of freshly cut blooms, arranged by category — Moss roses, Chinas, Albas, Noisettes, Damasks, Gallicas, Texas, and more. Fall in love with one and step outside to see if you can find at one of the booths selling roses of every description. Many of the California nurseries that specialize in the production of heirloom roses will be represented here.

Other plants to complement the rose garden can be found as well - species geraniums, unusual foxgloves, and other perennials will be sold in some of the booths. And for those who can't get enough roses, it doesn't stop there — also offered will be an abundance of books, greeting cards, potpourris, jewelry, clothing and accessories with rose

See ARTSBEAT, Page C5

UC student playwright Whittle-Utter gets double billing

LET US CONSIDER, with a full-throated "WOW!" the case of Jonathan Whittle-Utter. He turned 21 a few months ago. Not such a remarkable achievement. Happens all the time. What's rarely achieved at that age, however, is to have two of your plays opening on opposite sides of San Francisco Bay in the same week.

OK. Lose the "wow!" You can draw a breath now, and read on.

The UC Berkeley student's "Epicenter" previews at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Zellerbach Hall's Room 7 Studio underneath the auditorium on campus. The play runs at the same time through Saturday with an extra matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are at the door are \$10 general and \$8 for students with ID.

"Epicenter" is billed as a "Psychodrama of Paradigm Shifts." Let's let the playwright explain in his own words:

"The story is concerned with a troubled marriage, a missing computer chip, secret society warfare, the degradation of Western philosophy, and the end of the world," his press release says. "I don't think I can put it in more simple terms than that — it's supposed to be complicated beyond reason."

Retracte discarded "wow!" and exclaim as needed.

On Thursday, Whittle-Utter's play "Water Buffalo" previews at 8 p.m. at the Phoenix II Theatre, 653 Geary St., San Francisco. It runs weekends through May 19. Sunday performances are at 7 p.m., when tickets are pay-what-you-can. Friday and Saturday shows at 8



JACK TUCKER

Community Theater

p.m. are \$15. Call 510-444-7063.

"Water Buffalo," written when Whittle-Utter was only 18, is the latest offering from Bay Stage, a theater group dedicated to producing new works by Bay Area playwrights.

The dark drama, selected from more than 50 scripts submitted to the company, explores the relationship between Tom, a self-absorbed, pathological control freak, and Eve, a woman who ought to know better.

Renee Miller and Robert Zick portray the troubled couple in this premiere production directed by Jerry Diego.

NOW THAT'S BIG TROUBLE

Couple-trouble is multiplied 50-fold in Berkeley Repertory Theatre's "Big Love" opening at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Rep's Thrust Stage Theatre. That's the old one at 2025 Addison St., adjacent to the new 600-seat Roda Theatre.

Loosely based on the Greek drama "The Suppliant Women" by Aeschylus, "Big Love" by Charles L. Mee was a breakout hit at the 2000 Humana Festival of New Plays. It's an outrageous retelling of the classic. Fifty brides who are being forced to marry 50 brothers flee to a peaceful villa on the Italian coast in search of sanctuary.

Pursued by their relentless husbands-to-be, the ensuing

battle of the sexes escalates into a brutal war when the brides take fate into their own hands.

Intense, provocative and funny, "Big Love" offers a new and bold look at the eternal struggle between men and women.

Directed by Les Waters, it plays Tuesdays through Sundays through June 10. Times and ticket prices vary by days of the week. Call 510-647-2949 (new number), or toll-free at 888-427-8849. The Web site is www.berkeleyrep.org.

REP ADDS ONE: Also on Wednesday, the Rep will add a performance at 7 p.m. next door in the new theater of Aeschylus' "The Oresteia, Part I, Agamemnon."

Co-directed by Rep artistic director Tony Taccone and Stephen Wadsworth and translated by Robert Eagle, the 2,500-year-old trilogy is the inaugural production in the new proscenium theater. It is being performed as two events in repertory through May 6. Tickets for the added performance of Part I cost from \$10 to \$50.

AN OPULENT 'SOUND'

From events to come, let's turn to events now up and running: "The Sound of Music" opened auspiciously on Friday the 13th, despite the lackluster reputation of the date, for a run through May 26 at Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito.

It's an opulent production, conceived and realized on a scale beyond the reach of most community theaters — or professional theaters, for that matter. Matt Flynn's set design (with the on-site assistance of designer Cezanne Levesque) is

a dazzling display of stagecraft that drew applause on opening night.

Matt Flynn, son of CCCT's artistic director Louis Flynn, is a Los Angeles-based art director. His recent credits include NBC's "Just Shoot Me" and an East Coast production of "For Ever Plaid."

"There's about 750 man-hours of work up there," said CCCT master carpenter Aubrey McClellan, describing the set construction during intermission. The massive set was built by McClellan and a work crew that included the entire cast, families and friends. Now that's what "community theater" is all about.

Like an enormous three-dimensional book whose pages unfold — with the help of an almost choreographed stage crew and cast members — the ornate set moves through 11 changes in the first act and eight scenes in the second act.

From an Austrian abbey to the von Trapp villa, from living room to garden and scenes in between, the set creates an ambience of time and place that envelopes the story. The set becomes a wordless but effective member of the big cast.

The songs and the story of "The Sound of Music" need no reciting here. The production will be wholly satisfying for audiences that have made this one of the most enduring and endearing vehicles in the American musical theater. A few details still needed work, though most have probably been taken care of by now.

On some numbers, the music needed to be lowered. It

See TUCKER, Page C5

EVENTS

Paramount Theatre Movie Classics Series — through June 15. The evening includes a classic movie, walk-in music by Jim Riggs on the Wurlitzer organ, a newsreel, cartoon, movie previews and the Paramount's prize give-away game "Dec-O-Win."

April 27, 8 p.m. "Double Indemnity" (1944) This Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray film is a perfect noir \$5. 2025 Broadway, Oakland (510) 465-6400 or (925) 762-2277

Marcus Book Store — through May 19 Kimberla Lawson Roby May 1, 6:30 p.m. The author will discuss her latest novel "It's A Thin Red Line." Antonette Broussard, May 11, 6:30 p.m. This Bay area etiquette consultant and interior designer discusses her "American Holiday Traditions: Celebrating with Passion, Style and Grace" Free 3900 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Oakland (510) 652-2344

Cody's Bookstore — Poetry at Cody's. Michael Heller and Carol Rakos, April 27, 7:30 p.m. At 2454 Telegraph Ave \$2

Christopher Hitchens, April 28, 7:30 p.m. The author discusses his book "The Trial of Henry Kissinger" At 2454 Telegraph Ave

Poetry at Cody's. Gloria Frym and Lewis Wash, April 29, 7:30 p.m. At 2454 Telegraph Ave \$2

Anthony Browne, April 30, 11 a.m. Cody's

For Kids presents this award winning author and artist with his latest book "My Dad" Classes of children age 5 to 9 welcome Browne will be drawing. At 1730 Fourth St

Jamling Tenzen Norgay, April 30, 7:30 p.m. A slide/talk about his book "Touching My Father's Soul: A Sherpa's Journey to the Top of Everest." At 2454 Telegraph Ave

Diana Gessler, May 1, 10 a.m. The artist and author of "Very California: Travels Through the Garden State" will give a watercolor demonstration. At 1730 Fourth St

Han Ong, May 1, 7:30 p.m. The author will discuss his book "Fixer Chao" At 2454 Telegraph Ave

Michael Moorcock, May 2, 6 p.m. The author will discuss his book "The Dreamthief's Daughter" At 2454 Telegraph Ave

"My Story: Life as a Teen Parent," May 3, 7:30 p.m. With Valley High School contributors At 2454 Telegraph Ave

Doris Haddock, May 4, 7:30 p.m. The author will discuss her book "Granny D: Walking Across America in My 90th Year" At 2454 Telegraph Ave

Free Berkeley (510) 845-7852 or (510) 559-9500

Golden Gate Geographic Society Travel Film Series — "Australia" Ken Armstrong has explored all seven states and the federal capital so come with him to see this complete travel film depicting the country's major cities.

"My Story: Life as a Teen Parent," May 3, 7:30 p.m. With Valley High School contributors At 2454 Telegraph Ave

Doris Haddock, May 4, 7:30 p.m. The author will discuss her book "Granny D: Walking Across America in My 90th Year" At 2454 Telegraph Ave

\$5 general per film, \$8 seniors, students and disabled per film; \$5 children under age 12 per film. 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley (510) 642-1412 or (415) 642-5249 or www.sff.org

Chinese Family History Workshop — "Chinese Roots: From Oral History to Verification," April 28, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Jeanne Chooy Low, author of "China Connection: Finding Ancestral Roots for Chinese in America," will conduct the workshop

Free Asian Branch, Oakland Public Library, between Franklin and Webster Streets, Oakland (510) 238-3400

The New School International Family Fair And Raffle — April 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fair will include games and activities for children, great food, a Capoeira demonstration, and live entertainment including African dance, Ballet Folklorico, Native American flute music, and city blues by the Strange Angels.

The fair will take place rain or shine. Proceeds from the fair benefit the school's scholarship fund.

Free. The New School of Berkeley, Bonita Street between Cedar and Virginia Streets, Berkeley (510) 548-9165

The Park Day School's Secret Gardens Of The East Bay 2001 — April 28, 19 p.m. A pair of garden tours showcasing the spectacular gardens of the East Bay. The tours take place rain or shine. In addition to the tours, there is a Sunday series of garden talks at the school featuring grower Anna Hayes talking about "Amazing Annuals" at 11 a.m.; landscape designer Jana Olson on "Art, Artifacts and Inspiration" at noon; and George Madden of the design firm Feyerabend and Madden on "Potted to Perfection" at 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Park Day School. Free to tour ticket holders.

"Clark Expedition," April 28, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A tour of six gardens designed by Bob Clark. Begin at Park Day School with coffee and pastries and then go by

See EVENTS, Page C5

See MANN, Page C5

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change.
Call theaters for information
Compiled by: Hollywood.com

*Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday, April 27.

Alameda County

Act I & II

- 2128 Center Street, Berkeley 843-FILM
- Amores Perros (R) 6:45, 9:15
- The Center of the World (NR) 5:30, 7:30, 10:00

Albany Twin

- 1115 Solano Avenue, Albany 843-FILM
- The Dish (PG-13) 6:45, 9:15
- Pollock (R) 6:30, 9:00

California Theatres

- 2113 Kirtledge Street, Berkeley 843-FILM
- Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG) 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15

Century 25 Union City Union Landing

- 33201 Union Landing Road, Union City 487-9533
- Along Came a Spider (R) 11:35 a.m., 12:35, 1:30, 3:00, 4:20, 5:30, 6:50, 7:50, 9:05, 10:20, 11:45

Amores Perros (R) 1:30, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10

Blow (R) 10:50 a.m., 1:50, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45

Briget Jones's Diary (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, midnights

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15, 12:30, 1:45, 3:20, 4:25, 5:45, 7:15, 8:00, 9:25, 10:15, 11:30

Crushing Tiger, Hidden Dragon (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 5:10, 7:50

The Debut (NR) 11:25 a.m., 1:35, 3:35, 6:15, 8:20, 10:40

Driven (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 1:25, 1:50, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:00, 8:05, 9:00, 9:45, 10:45, 11:40

Enemy at the Gates (R) 1:00, 3:55, 7:05, 10:05

Exit Wounds (R) 2:30, 10:30

The Forsaken (R) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:35, 9:40

Freddy Got Fingered (R) 11:40 a.m., 12:30, 1:40, 2:45, 3:30, 4:50, 6:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:20, 10:35, 11:45

Joe Dirt (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 4:55, 7:30, 9:35, 11:45

Josie and the Pussycats (PG-13) 7:25, 9:55

Kingdom Come (PG) 12:50, 3:05, 5:10, 7:35, 9:50

One Night at McCool's (R) 12:15, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40, 11:40

Pokemon (3) 6:10, 20:25, 5:55

Spy Kids (PG) 11:25 a.m., 2:40, 2:00, 3:10, 4:35, 5:40, 7:10, 8:10, 9:30, 10:30

The Tailor of Panama (R) 12:05, 2:20, 5:15, 7:45, 11:45

Town and Country (R) noon, 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

Chabot Cinema

- 2653 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 582-2555
- Bridget Jones's Diary (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

Chabot Space & Science Center Tien Megadome *

- 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 336-7300
- The Mysteries of Egypt (NR) 11:30 a.m., 3:00, 8:30
- Solar Max (NR) 7:30
- To Be an Astronaut (NR) 10:30 a.m., 1:00

Elmwood

- 2966 College Avenue, Berkeley 849-0530
- Billy Elliot (R) 7:00
- Heartbreakers (PG-13) 4:30, 9:15
- Malena (R) 7:30
- Quills (R) 5:05, 9:20
- Wonder Boys (R) 4:40
- You Can Count on Me (R) 7:05, 9:20

Fine Arts Cinema - Berkley *

- 2451 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 848-1143
- Sing Faster, The Stagehands' Ring Cycle (NR) 9:30
- Step Across the Border (NR) 7:30

Grand Lake Theater

- 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 452-3556
- Bridget Jones's Diary (R) 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

The Forsaken (R) 12:20, 4:00, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40

Kingdom Come (PG) 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

Town and Country (R) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

Mann Festival 9 Cinemas Hayward *

- 1990 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 785-8000
- Amores Perros (R) 6:15, 9:15, 10:00
- Blow (R) 12:50, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG) 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15

Driven (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, 10:25

Freddy Got Fingered (R) 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 10:25

Kingdom Come (PG) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35

One Night at McCool's (R) 1:30, 2:20, 4:55, 8:10, 10:20

Spy Kids (PG) 11:10 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35

Mann Festival 9 Cinemas Hayward *

- 1990 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 785-8000
- Amores Perros (R) 6:15, 9:15, 10:00
- Blow (R) 12:50, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

The Brothers (R) 5:00, 7:20, 9:30

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG) 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15

Driven (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, 10:25

Freddy Got Fingered (R) 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 10:25

Kingdom Come (PG) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35

One Night at McCool's (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30

Spy Kids (PG) noon, 2:10, 2:40, 4:45, 7:05, 9:15

Naz 8 *

- 3940 Aragon Way, Fremont 797-2000
- Alibis (NR) 5:00, 6:00, 9:30, midnight

American Dasi (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00

Jodi No. 1 (5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00)

Little John (NR) 9:00

Nan Hendrix Channa Giddalas (NR) 9:30

Pyar Tute Kiya (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00

Oak Theater *

- 1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 526-1838
- Spy Kids (PG) 7:15, 9:15
- Town and Country (R) 7:00, 9:30

Piedmont Theatre

- 4186 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland 843-FILM
- Crushing Tiger, Hidden Dragon (PG-13) 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

Memento (R) 1:20, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

The Tailor of Panama (R) 1:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10

Shattuck Cinemas *

- 2230 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 843-FILM
- Beautiful Creatures (R) 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40

Before Night Falls (R) 12:00, 6:45

Best in Show (PG) 1:35, 9:40

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG) 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

Chopper (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG) 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

Driven (PG-13) 1:30, 4:00, 7:20, 9:45

Enlightenment Guaranteed (Erleuchtung Garantiert) (NR) 4:35, 9:25

Himalaya: L'Enfant D'un Chef (I) 5:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15

Joe Dirt (PG-13) 2:15, 7:15

O Brother, Where Art Thou? (PG-13) 1:15, 4:20, 6:55, 9:20

The Tailor of Panama (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:05, 9:35

UA Berkeley 7

- 2274 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 843-1487
- Along Came a Spider (R) 12:30, 2:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:45

Blow (R) 12:45, 3:50, 7:05, 10:05

The Forsaken (R) 12:30, 3:15, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25

Freddy Got Fingered (R) 1:00, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

One Night at McCool's (R) 12:15, 2:45, 4:55, 7:15, 9:15

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Amores Perros (R) 1:15, 3:30, 7:50, 10:05

Blow (R) 10:50 a.m., 1:50, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45

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• Along Came a Spider (R) 11:35 a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15

• The Forsaken (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

• Spy Kids (PG) 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15

• Town and Country (R) 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 5:10, 7:00, 9:15

7:45, 10:15

• Traffic (R) 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:30

• Along Came a Spider (R) 10:45 a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15

• The Forsaken (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

• Spy Kids (PG) 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15

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Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

against moviegoers, a gross-out farce that fails to link together any of the disgusting events shown on-screen. There's no real plot; just family dysfunction. Boring. Dull. And shameful. — A. Breznican. (R: language, sexual references, gross scenes.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. F

"HAUNTED CASTLE": This 3D IMAX film promises horror and delivers it in an unintended way. The film, which follows the brief adventure of a budding rock singer, makes the special effects the real star, and some of these are quite good. But a film needs to commit itself to more than merely presenting shiny, rotating, 3D objects for our distraction. Either "Haunted Castle" should have gone straight for the adult jugular and rating, or spent a smidgeon more time making the special effects actually do something other than look pretty. — V. Chan. (PG: creepy images.) 40 minutes. D

"HEARTBREAKERS": Unexpectedly fun and funny, especially for a movie starring Jennifer Love Hewitt. She plays con-artist daughter to Sigourney Weaver's con-artist mom. Together they prey on rich men, with Weaver's character seducing and marrying them, then the curvy Hewitt putting them in a compromising position just in time to end the marriage and guarantee a hearty settlement. Among the movie's many clever elements is Gene Hackman as an odious, chain-smoking billionaire and Ray Liotta as the trashy boss of a New Jersey chop shop who is determined to get Weaver's character back. With Jason Lee as an irresistible cutie who gives Hewitt's grifter a reason to change her ways. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sex-related content and language.) 2 hours, 3 minutes. B+

"JOE DIRT": Owing a lot to Adam Sandler's "Dirt" comes from his production company), this gross-out comedy finds David Spade as a plucky little redneck with a heart of gold and a mullet as well. Spade plays Dirt, a janitor who's on a quest to find his parents. That's it for the plot. Reminiscent of a Jerry Peyer Show." The only salivation is performances by Christopher Walken and Dennis Miller. Truth be told, that's not enough. — C. Lemire. (PG-13: crude and sex-related humor, language.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. D

"JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS": The old Archie-comic-turned-TV-cartoon series has been turned into living, breathing stick figures in this high-pitched film. Teen star Rachael Leigh Cook is Josie, Rosario Dawson is Val and Tara Reid is Melody, all of whom discover that their music is being planted with subliminal marketing messages. There's a nice setup here, but the execution is poor, making this "Josie" a bore. — M. Polis. (PG-13: language and sensuality.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C-

"KINGDOM COME": A divided African-American family comes together to mourn its curmudgeonly patriarch in this overacted comedy/drama starring an ensemble cast. All sorts of family dysfunction surfaces, and most of it comes out in the form of shouts and tears. Showing much-needed restraint, are Vivica A. Fox and Whoopi Goldberg. It's manipulative, but some might find it inspirational as well. — C. Vognar. (PG: language, sexual content, bodily humor.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. C-

"THE LOW DOWN": There are instances of revelation and deep sentiment along with occasions of prolonged monotony in this tale of living and loving in modern London. Aidan Gillen stars as a man in his late 20s who decides to buy a flat, and falls for his real estate agent in the

process. The characters are well-drawn, but the movie ultimately becomes a collage of impressions, good and bad. — D. Germain. (NR) 1 hour, 36 minutes. C

"MEMENTO": Christopher Nolan's thriller is told backward in roughly 10-minute increments, which has made it buzz central among the spring releases. But even after two viewings, "Memento" comes off more as a clever gag than a piece of wildly innovative filmmaking. It's set up to reward the sharp-eyed viewer: Figure out what's going on and put yourself on the back for being in the same intellectual stratosphere as the filmmaker. Still, Guy Pearce couldn't be better as Leonard, a former insurance claims investigator who's on a mission to find his wife's killer, but is hampered by having no short-term memory. — M. Polis. (R: violence, drug content and some language.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. B

"THE MEXICAN": A perfectly engineered date movie: enough action for the boys, and cute cut-offs and a love story for the girls. Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts are appealing as a feuding couple. Pitt has one last job to finish for the mob, but it's a doozy, eventually involving his girlfriend (Roberts). There's a spirited hokey quality to "The Mexican," but its two stars are so appealing and the supporting cast so strong, especially James Gaddforn, that it works most of the time. — M. Polis. (R: violence, language.) 2 hours, 3 minutes. B+

"O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?": The most sublimely insane and creative movie to come along for awhile is a strange hybrid of musical comedy, silent movies and "The Wizard of Oz." In the latest from the Coen brothers ("Fargo," "Raising Arizona"), George Clooney, John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson play a trio of chain-gang escapees making their way around the back roads of Mississippi in the middle of the Depression. Based on "The Odyssey," although beyond the basics the Homeric references are fairly scant. The soundtrack is fantastic, so are the visuals and you'll want to make a return trip to catch all the jokes. And there's nary a wood chipper in sight. — M. Polis. (PG-13: some violence and language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. A-

"POKEMON 3: THE MOVIE": The third film outing for the animated action critters is a lushly sketched exercise that bookends two adventures. The film is aimed for young kids, but adults might get swept up into the action based on the colorful animation. Both adventures are entertaining, if lightweight as evil is supplied by good. — M. Ritter. (G: some younger children might be overwhelmed by the battles.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B.

"POLLOCK": You can't beat the acting in director/star Ed Harris' biographical movie about painter Jackson Pollock. As the troubled artist, Harris is brilliant, and so is Marcia Gay Harden as his wife, painter Lee Krasner, who sacrifices her own work to baby-sit the self-destructive genius. The supporting actors, including Amy Madigan as art collector Peggy Guggenheim, are right on. But the movie suffers from the conventions of ye olde screwed-up-artist plot. And, although no bio-pic can cover all the territory in someone's life, there are missing pieces within the version Harris has chosen to tell. In a four-hour version on PBS or HBO, this might have been a much more gloriously rich story. — M. Polis. (R: pervasive drug use, strong language, violence and some sexuality.) 2 hours, 27 minutes. A-

"YOU CAN COUNT ON ME": Kenneth Lonergan makes a strong debut as writer/director in this offbeat movie about the bond between brothers and sisters. Sammy (Laura Linney) and Terry (Mark Ruffalo) were orphaned as young kids, and their lives have taken very different paths. Sammy works at the local bank and has never left home (she lives in their parents' house with her 8-year-old son), while Terry is an aimless drifter. The movie looks at what happens when Terry comes home for a visit and the two are reunited. Co-winner of this year's Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, this is a small movie that parks itself in your brain and refuses to let go. Linney and Ruffalo are both outstanding, and Matthew Broderick shines (as usual) in a small part. — M. Polis. (R: language, some sexuality and drug use.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. A-

"SOMEONE LIKE YOU": A predictable adaptation of Laura Zigman's zingy, silly little novel "Any Husband." Ashley Judd plays Jane Goodall, a woman who has been inexplicably dumped by Ray the lout

(Greg Kinnear). Instead of wallowing in ice cream, Jane dives into animal husbandry, eager to prove that men are pigs. Her best example is Eddie (an irresistible Hugh Jackman). The fetching Judd displays a nice sense of comic timing and looks great in her underwear. In the novel, Zigman joked about a possible conclusion to Jane's romantic odyssey, then dismissed it with a breezy, "Ahh!" Sadly, the movie has no compunction about making the joke a reality. Edginess must have its end. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content, including dialogue and some language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C+

"SPY KIDS": Robert Rodriguez's action flick for kids has a sly sense of humor, gloriously fantastical sets and, at its core, a goodhearted but never preachy message about the importance of family. Antonio Banderas plays former superspy Gregorio Cortez, who retired from secret agentdom when he met and married fellow spy Ingrid (the perky Carla Gugino). Eleven years later, they have two kids, Carmen (Alexa Vega) and Juni (Daryl Sabara), and a lucrative consulting business, but can't resist the urge to save the world. Their latest foes are the evil Geno Floop (Alan Cumming). When they run into trouble, it's up to their excellent pair of kids to save them. — M. Polis. (PG: action sequences.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. A-

"THE TAILOR OF PANAMA": Pierce Brosnan and Geoffrey Rush star in this satisfying blend of action, intrigue, snappy dialogue and dark humor, based on one of John le Carré's espionage stories. Brosnan plays a jaded spy exiled to Panama after flubbing an assignment. He manipulates a British expatriate who runs a tailor shop in Panama City (Rush) into revealing secrets about the Panama Canal. The hitch here is that Rush's stones are just that—overblown stories. Solid acting and shrewd direction and writing make this a must-see. — D. Germain. (R: strong sexuality, language and some violence.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B+

"TRAFFIC": Steven Soderbergh's epic story of the drug war in America is, hands down, the best movie of the year. It hits every angle, from Benicio Del Toro's striking turn as an honest Mexican policeman in a sea of corruption to Michael Douglas' role as America's newest drug czar, a man too intent on the bigger battle to realize his teen-age daughter is dipping into hard drugs. We even get up with a drug kingpin and his pregnant wife (Catherine Zeta-Jones). This is a big movie, challenging and deeply rewarding. The ensemble cast is absolutely mind-blowing, and so is the dexterity with which Soderbergh both wields his camera and weaves a fascinating story. — M. Polis. (R: pervasive drug use, strong language, violence and some sexuality.) 2 hours, 27 minutes. A-

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KGO-TV may have gotten a head start on sweeps two weeks ago when it ran an investigation about puppy mills. Explanation: Puppy-mill stories are usually a sweeps staple on local TV newscasts, along with any story with a sex angle.

What I'm looking forward to most during this sweeps is the third installment of "Tales of The City" starring the delightful Laura Linney (returning as Mary Anne) and Olympia Dukakis as the transsexual Mrs. Madrigal. (Her mom, Mother Muccah, the madame at a Nevada brothel, moves to S.F.) "Armistead Maupin's Further Tales of The City," which begins a four-episode, month-long run on pay cable's Showtime on May 6, also costars "Once and Again" hunk Hank Campbell and Mary Kay Place.

Rupe Murdoch's TV Guide cover last week, by the way, proclaimed "Once and Again" as the "Best Show You're Not Watching." I like "Once and Again," but I can think of a few others even better. Rupe. The sweeps are when Nielsen sends out hundreds of diaries in the mail — you get \$1 for filling one in! These ratings will be used to set local TV ad rates for the next six months. But whatever rates may be on a given TV station, alas, I'm afraid you still have to watch endless pitches for 1-800-DEN-TIST, The Jewelry Exchange, Dodge Trucks, and Shoe Pavilion.

Ready for sweeps? The big May ratings sweeps begin next week, and as usual, the networks (cable and broadcast) have stockpiled plenty of high-profile programming. This month's sweeps includes made-for-TV biogs of Marilyn Monroe (CBS's "Blonde" is adapted from Joyce Carol Oates' bestseller) and ABC's new biopic about Shirley Temple. The real-life Shirley Temple Black lives in Hillsborough. I will remember meeting this delightful lady at the annual Oakland Tribune Christmas party. She served on late Trib publisher Robert Maynard's board of directors. She and Maynard met when the two were seated together at a dinner party on the royal yacht Britannia.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill at newsman@sonic.net.)

Tucker

FROM PAGE C3

was hard to hear some of the words. Missing was any feeling of menace. This was, after all, the eve of World War II. A suggestion of that foreboding future could have created a tension as an alter-motif to the beauty and calm of the surroundings. This must have its end. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content, including dialogue and some language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C+

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Some characters came close.

This is a handsome, exuberant show. It is a tribute to the cast and Louis Flynn, who took over as director late in the rehearsal phase, and especially Ken Ray as Capt. Georg von Trapp, who replaced the lead male singer with only 10 days of marathon rehearsals to prepare for the demanding role.

These things happen. They can be more than a bump in the road, even for seasoned

troupers. But this "Sound of Music" company at Contra Costa Civic Theatre brought the elegant old vehicle home in commendable style.

Jack Tucker's column runs Sundays. Send items of interest to him c/o the West County Times, P.O. Box 100, Pinole, CA 94562; fax to 510 262-2766; e-mail to jtucker@ctimes.com, or call 510 262-27

America's past comes alive in historic Virginia

The dogwood are in bloom, the boxwood is a deep green and the magnolia trees are ready to blossom. It is Spring in Virginia, and the beauty is all about us.

We are a group from the History Guild of the Oakland Museum, and we are "doing" the gardens of Virginia. We have only been into it for a couple of days, but they have been full and captivating. At every turn one is surprised by the creamy beauty of a dogwood tree, and sometimes, when we are very lucky, by the glorious pink trees that take my breath away. In fact, as I sit here in Kinkos, typing this column, I look across the street to the lovely pink that so epitomizes Virginia and the dogwoods.

Our group is made up of aficionados of gardens, of traveling, of filling every moment with joy and enjoyment. Almost all of us are retirees, although there is one woman who is a firefighter in San Francisco — and I mean to go into that more deeply with her and perhaps report to you in a future column about the life of a woman firefighter.

CLARA-RAE GENSER Community Folk

No, I'm not going to tell you of the plantations, homes and gardens we have visited, only some of the wonderful aspects of it all. For instance, at the Oatlands plantation we were met by a tall, majestic looking woman, with a British accent and a commanding presence. She introduced herself, and told us that she had been doing this for about 64 years, ever since she had come to America at the age of 30, 94 years old? Indeed, and proud of every day of it.

Dressed in the garb of a proper English gentlewoman, and full of enthusiasm for her subject, she gave us an incredible amount of information, witty innuendo and gossip. She knew the place, she knew the people, and after about half an hour with her so did we.

Then there was Stella, the guide, who came onto our coach in the dress of a woman of 1776, to tell us all about Alexandria. And, again, it was a very quick lesson in history

and geography. We learned much about Alexandria as well as about George Washington, the Lee family, George and Martha's family, and the doctors, friends and family that surrounded them, as well as the times in which they lived. Did you know that if the door of a house was painted blue, it meant there was a young woman, usually about 14 years old, who was ready for marriage?

And then there are George Washington's teeth, which were not made up wood, but of steel, with fastenings that must have caused him constant pain.

Of course, it is not only the Revolutionary War that we are visiting, it is also the Civil War. And in a day or so we will be visiting Fredericksburg, where time seems to have stood still.

Three Civil War battles took place in the streets of Fredericksburg, and at Mary's Heights, now the largest graveyard of Civil War veterans, where General Robert E. Lee won his last battle before surrendering to General Grant in Richmond.

Thomas Jefferson, Washington, Adams and many others spent evenings at the Rising Sun Tavern, built by Washington's younger brother. In fact, the Father of Our Country was known and welcomed in taverns in several of the cities in the colonies.

And Washington did other things that surprised me. He had a special bank account, the interest of which was used to

pay for education for women. A feminist even then?? His love of and generosity to his step children and their children is another beautiful story.

On this trip many of our historic forefathers have become people to us, and very interesting people as well.

There is Jefferson and his home, Monticello, which he planned and built so carefully. It is now the only house in the United States that is on the United Nations' prestigious World Heritage List of International Treasures. We will visit this also. And Jefferson designed Richmond, Va.'s state capital which, along with the rest of the city was destroyed when Lee made his last stand against the Union.

And the gardens. Ah, the gardens. As tour leader Maxine Adams tells us, the rage for gardening that swept Europe during the Enlightenment took root in America as soon as the early settlers were able to shift their energies from agricultural survival to the cultivation of a more civilized way of life. And the gardens live today, cared for and, when necessary, restored by loving gardeners of today.

This computer and I are not getting along well. I wanted to give you an overall taste of what I am enjoying. Today is a glorious (and hot) sunny day. Tomorrow it is supposed to rain. I thought I had better do it while I am still enjoying the sunny beauty of Virginia. I hope I have brought it across.

CALENDAR

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

The Berkeley Art Center hosts its ninth annual Youth Arts Festival through May 12 at the Berkeley Art Center in Live Oak Park, 1275 Walnut St. The Festival is a citywide celebration of art, music, dance and poetry by talented youth from the Berkeley Unified School District. Admission is free. For more information, call 644-6933.

The Crowd School and Crowd Center for Music in the Community, 1475 Rose St., presents its second annual Community Music Day, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, April 28. This free event offers a variety of musical performances and activities for children of all ages. Make your own musical instruments, or visit the Instrument Petting Zoo. For more information, call CCMC Executive Director Elisabeth Christensen at 599-6910 or visit the website www.thecrowd-school.org.

Community

The New School of Berkeley celebrates spring with an International Family Fair and Raffle from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 on Bonita Street between Cedar and Virginia. The raffle drawing is at 4 p.m. There will be live entertainment, including a Capoeira demonstration, African dance, Ballet Folklorico, Native American flute music, city blues and more. Admission is free. For more information, call 548-9165.

Literary Events

Award-winning radio journalist Amy Goodman speaks on independent media and dissent from the US to Indonesia and East Timor, at 8 p.m. Friday, April 28 at King Middle School, 1781 Rose St. Tickets: \$10 at independent bookstores, \$13 at door. For more information, call 985-0385.

Meetings

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana St., presents the last workshop in its Caregivers Survival Series entitled "Placement Dilemmas," 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 28. The Eldercare Service speaker talks about playing a loved one in a healthcare facility, where to find the right kind of placement, emotional issues involved with placement and the levels of care and cost available. The workshop is free, includes breakfast and parking. Registration is required, Call Alicia Shafer at 848-6252 x241.



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The chronology starts with a Thomas Morley madrigal from the end of the 16th century; "Fire! Fire! My Heart!" a desperate plea to quench inflamed but unspoken lust. Travel through the 18th Century with an Early-American anthem, "I Am the Rose of Sharon" by William Billings, and a lively Haydn tune that contains the recipe for the perfect marriage. The 20th Century gives us a look at Ravel's story about a young

girl who has to choose between love and money. The year 1932 brings us both Bartok's "Love Song," showing us the passion of a young farmer for his beloved; and Rodgers' and Hart's "Isn't It Romantic?," made popular in urban clubs and sophisticated musical comedies.

Bella Musica's Composer-In-Residence, Ann Callaway, provides a new world premiere composition based on a poem by Rabindranath Tagore, "Songs from the Gardener." Sultry murmurings and whispered invitations are accompanied by the seductive piano artistry of Matthew Edwards.

Arlene Sagan founded Bella Musica 5 years ago, and has been bringing new music by

Addison@McGee. This lovely church is wheelchair accessible and there is plenty of parking in the back. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$9 for students and seniors. As always, these are suggested donations. Saturday's concert, April 28, begins at 8:00pm; Sunday's

concert, the 29th begins at 4:00pm. For information call (510) 525-5393, www.bellamusica.org.

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The Book Review

TIMES BOOK CLUB

Author lets characters do the work

■ Thomas Moran's novel of Ireland is a love story that turns violent

By Lynn Carey

STAFF WRITER

I began with the image of a lovely, privileged young girl. Thomas Moran named her Una when he set out to write "Water, Carry Me." He set her in Ireland, the home of his ancestors.

"It's a lovely place, with lovely people, and they have this horrible history," Moran, 51, says in a phone interview. "Una just sort of appeared in my mind, as what happens to someone like that, who is about as insulated from the Irish Troubles as anyone can be?"

His wealthy heroine lives in the relatively safe south of Ireland, where she attends an exclusive girls' school. She becomes directly involved in the Troubles, to a tragic extent.

Moran says the story's main ideas could just as easily have been set in the former Yugoslavia, or Sri Lanka. "It was the atmosphere that I wanted people to think about. Una was the vehicle for conveying some of those ideas."

A former journalist for Fairchild Publications, Moran was for a time in charge of the foreign bureaus, which meant he had to visit them all. That is why he felt comfortable writing about Ireland.

"I've been there often enough to get the atmosphere authentic. I do insist on authenticity. I like the details to be right."

He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for a series on Mafia control of the New York garment industry, which ran in Women's Wear Daily. Moran admits that reporting that, as well as nearly being killed by Marxist Muslims in the Philippines, is just part of what colors his view of the world.

"The way people behave ... we're just not very civilized, or if we are, it's some-



THOMAS MORAN, author of "Water, Carry Me," says he loves writing fiction and helping characters "create themselves." The character of Una "just sort of appeared in my mind," he says.

thing we shed very easily. It's hard to be optimistic about human behavior in general. But that's just my point of view."

In "Water, Carry Me," Moran's point of view turns a love story into a tragic crime scene. Even when Aidan first appeared on his computer, he hadn't decided that Aidan would end up being an IRA sleeper. "Then it occurred to me halfway through the book, wouldn't it be interesting to explore how this very naive girl becomes actively involved in the violence and the terror?"

Moran firmly believes that Aidan loves Una. "I think it's shown most clearly in his concern. He knows he's putting her at risk when he's sending her back; he's insistent she follow the route, the train to

the ferry, so she will get back safely. Then he will have completed the mission, which he must; otherwise he'd get assassinated."

Despite his love for Una, Aidan was still willing to take the risk, Moran says. It had to do with his belief in his cause, and "also his personal fear of what would happen to him if he abandoned the cause."

Una wasn't naive as much as she was in denial, Moran says. "Being bright and intelligent, she didn't want to face that her parents may have been assassinated in a struggle with the IRA, and she didn't want to believe her grandfather was a mule for the IRA. She moved in a circle of spoiled brats, having a pretty good life, no money worries, no violence in the

south to speak of."

Yes, Aidan gives signs that he's involved in something mysterious, but she didn't question him, Moran says. "He's her first great love."

Moran spoke from the back deck of his temporary home in Tennessee, where he's spending a semester as Tennessee Williams fellow and visiting professor at the University of the South in Sewanee. He's there with his Austrian wife and young son; they also have an apartment in Manhattan and a house in the Catskills.

Moran has another novel written and ready for publication, as well as another ready for the final editing process. "Water, Carry Me" is his third novel. His first, "The Man in the Box," came to him when he was still a journalist.

"I never had any ambitions to write fiction. But this sentence came into my mind when I was walking to the subway, and I wrote it down for some strange reason. Then immediately other sentences wrote themselves afterwards."

The sentence was: "During the war, we kept our Jew in a box."

"The Man in the Box" won the Stephen Crane award for new fiction. His second book is "The World I Made For Her."

He loves writing fiction. "It's so much fun to let my imagination go that way, to get into the fictional world. I don't know if I'm really creating ... I'm helping these characters create themselves. At the end of the day, I feel like I've been in another place. The characters are as real to me when I'm on the computer as people I meet."

Una wasn't naive as much as she was in denial, Moran says. "Being bright and intelligent, she didn't want to face that her parents may have been assassinated in a struggle with the IRA, and she didn't want to believe her grandfather was a mule for the IRA. She moved in a circle of spoiled brats, having a pretty good life, no money worries, no violence in the

Welcome to the club

By Lynn Carey

STAFF WRITER

Read any good books lately?

If the answer is yes, we want to hear about them.

If the answer is no, well, welcome to the Times Book Club.

This is a new adventure for all of us, even though the Times began the world's first newspaper book club in April, 1997. This is our first plunge into your neighborhood. But we've been going strong for four years, and we're on our 33rd book.

The Times Book Club is a great one to belong to. For one thing, we throw fabulous parties. On Tuesday night we hosted six authors at our fourth annual Times Book Club Gala at the Dean Lesser Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. More than 800 people joined us to hear Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Chabon, Ruth Reichl, Mona Simpson, Thomas Moran, Katie Singer and Mako Yoshikawa read. They also signed books and engaged in a wide-ranging group discussion on writing and contemporary literature.

Here's another thing: Your comments and suggestions aren't going into a cyberspace void; your phone calls will actually be returned, and so will your emails.

There are no dues involved; all you have to do is read the book.

We do have some guidelines, however, for the kinds of books we choose. We're looking for those you might not otherwise read. In fact, we're looking for books you might never have heard of. No Oprah books. No New York Times best-sellers (unless we help get it on the list). No books that have been made into a movie.

The author must be alive, so we can interview him or her. The book also needs to be worthy of discussion. And we've so far managed to avoid those built-in "readers guides" in the backs of books, because we've had many people tell us they find them patronizing.

Once you've read the book, send the Times Book Club your comments, and you may get invited to dinner, followed by the chance to help lead a bigger discussion in an independent bookstore. We're looking forward to getting to know the book-sellers in your neighborhoods.

Here's a list of the books we've read so far:

- "The Romance Reader," by Pearl Abraham
- "Atticus," by Ron Hansen
- "The Giant's House," by Elizabeth McCracken

- "The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," by Rebecca Wells
- "Maiden Voyage," by Cynthia Bass

- "Ugly Ways," by Tina McElroy Ansa
- "The Tortilla Curtain," by T. Coraghessan Boyle

- "The Samurai's Garden," by Gail Tsukiyama
- "The Light of Falling Stars," by J. Robert Lennon
- "The Weight of Water," by Anita Shreve

- "Straight Man," by Richard Russo

- "All Over but the Shoutin'," by Rick Bragg
- "The Family Markowitz," by Allegro Goodman

- "The Chin Kiss King," by Ana Vecina-Suarez
- "Wasted — A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia," by Marya Hornbacher

- "Caucasia," by Danzy Senna
- "About a Boy," by Nick Hornby

- "Lost in Translation," by Nicole Kidman
- "Evening," by Susan Minot
- "The Museum Guard," by Howard Norman

- "The Girl in the Photograph," by Gabrielle Donnelly
- "Werewolves in their Youth," by Michael Chabon
- "Amy and Isabelle," by Elizabeth Strout

- "House of Sand and Fog," by Andre Dubus III
- "Tender at the Bone," by Ruth Reichl
- "An Equal Music," by Vikram Seth

- "One Hundred and One Ways," by Makoto Yoshikawa
- "The Miracle of Castel di Sangro," by Joe McGinniss
- "Plainsong," by Kent Haruf

- "The Wholeness of a Broken Heart," by Katie Singer
- "Black Girl in Paris," by Shay Youngblood
- "Water, Carry Me," by Thomas Moran

'Water, Carry Me' makes some waves

By Lynn Carey

STAFF WRITER

ATH, THE EMERALD Isle. In many novels, it's portrayed as charming, beautiful, romantic and laden with quirky characters. In Thomas Moran's "Water, Carry Me," it is all of the above, with some politics thrown in for good measure. And that's when things got animated at the Times Book Club discussion earlier this month, attended by more than 30 people.

You'd think we were all in a pub! Punches weren't thrown, but the words were, at times, loud and contentious. And that's just the way we like it. It's the sign of a good book that there can be that many strong opinions.

After a small dinner, Belinda Castillo of Pleasanton and Joe McCarron of Dublin led the discussion at Diablo Books in Walnut Creek, which was hosted by store owners Lynn Kuehl and Kim Brandt. The big question concerned the character of Aidan, Una's lover. Was he in the relationship because he needed her as a pawn of the Irish Republican Army? Did he really love her?

And, while we're at it, what did the title mean?

Daniela Purlia of San Ramon said he was trying to figure out as he read why water was so important.

"You had a character who wasn't very political, but she couldn't escape her culture of Ireland. She was swept away by all these tensions, and that was the theme of the book."

Una would lie in the waves and let them almost cradle her. Joe Delano of Danville said she must have felt that she was being taken care of by the ocean, which is all the more interesting because Una was an orphan. "In a sense, there's a maternal connection with the ocean; it sort of takes care of her."

There was confusion over the political geography of Ireland (some participants wished there were a explanation in the book), but Kathleen Caldwell of Sonoma has relatives in Ireland. She said her aunts and uncles in the south definitely support whatever is going on in the north.

"That was my take on Una: She had no identity. And with Aidan, she found an identity. She found something to be passionate about."

Catherine Kuss of Oakland said Una had led the life of a privileged rich girl who'd been isolated from all the politics swirling around her. "She fell in love with this man, and

while we saw it all along, she never did. I really didn't think she saw the politics going on."

There were disagreements on just how duplicitous Aidan was.

"He knew what he was doing," said Caroline Wood of Moraga.

"He was told to go deep undercover," protested Joe Delano of Danville. "I got the impression he wasn't even going to be contacted (by the IRA) until something needed to be done that was significant."

Purlia agreed. "I think he did

want this relationship with her and tried to protect her. That is one of the more interesting things in the book. We don't know what he was thinking after Una was caught."

Gene Maloney of Walnut Creek had a problem with the ending. "In Ireland, you wouldn't be found guilty if you had no intent."

McCarron said it was up to the author. "He wanted it to be an Irish story, so he had to suffer!"

"Una was a complete and utter idiot!" said Kuss. "She should have seen the clues!"

"She was in love with the guy," said Kelly Wilkins of Martinez.

"She totally trusted him. You're not going to find out clues when you're in love and you're 19."

She'd just finished re-reading this book. We investigated and discovered that though it's one of Simpson's earlier books, it has an intriguing local angle.

Like Simpson's other two books, "Anywhere But Here" and "The Lost Father," this one concerns a young girl in search of her father. The man she finds is one of the wealthiest men in the Bay Area, having made his money in biotechnology. He's

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "The Bonesetter's Daughter," by Amy Tan. (Putnam, \$25.95)
2. "My Dream Life," by Nuata O'Faolain (Picador, \$14.)
3. "Gin in Hyacinth Blue," by Susan Vreeker (Picador, \$14.)
4. "Winkie's War of Maladies," by Jhumpa Lahiri. (Houghton Mifflin, \$12.)
5. "Abab's Wife" by Sena Jeter Naslund (Hyperion, \$26.)
6. "Chocolate," by Joanne Harris (Penguin, \$14.)
7. "Plainsong," by Kent Haruf. (Vintage, \$13.)
8. "Bridge Jones's Diary," by Helen Fielding. (Penguin, \$12.95.)
9. "Bridge Jones: The Edge of Reason," by Helen Fielding. (Penguin, \$13.95.)
10. "Icy Sparks," by Gwyn Hyman Rubio (Penguin, \$13.95.)
11. "The Last Time They Met," by Anita Shreve (Little, Brown, \$24.95.)

Nonfiction

1. "Fast Food Nation," by Eric Schlosser (Houghton Mifflin, \$22.50.)
2. "Seabiscuit: An American Legend," by Laura Hillenbrand (Random House, \$24.95.)
3. "The Power of Now," by Eckhart Tolle. (New World Library, \$21.95.)
4. "Darwin Awards," by Wendy Northcutt. (Dutton, \$17.95.)
5. "Budha," by Karen Armstrong. (Viking, \$19.95.)
6. "Wisdom of Menopause," by Christopher Hedges. (Ballantine, \$22.95.)
7. "Religion Matters," by Huston Smith. (HarperSanFrancisco, \$25.)
8. "Who Moved My Cheese," by Spencer Johnson. (Putnam, \$21.95.)
9. "Before Night Falls," by Reinaldo Arenas. (Penguin, \$12.95.)
10. "A General Theory of Love," by Thomas Lewis (Vintage, \$13.)

Trade paperback fiction

1. "Girl With a Pearl Earring," by Tracy Chevalier (Plume, \$12.)
2. "The Red Tent," by Anita Diamant (Picador, \$14.)
3. "Gin in Hyacinth Blue," by Susan Vreeker (Picador, \$14.)
4. "Winkie's War of Maladies," by Jhumpa Lahiri. (Houghton Mifflin, \$12.)
5. "Abab's Wife" by Sena Jeter Naslund (Hyperion, \$26.)
6. "Chocolate," by Joanne Harris (Penguin, \$14.)
7. "Plainsong," by Kent Haruf. (Vintage, \$13.)
8. "Bridge Jones's Diary," by Helen Fielding. (Penguin, \$12.95.)
9. "Bridge Jones: The Edge of Reason," by Helen Fielding. (Penguin, \$13.95.)
10. "Icy Sparks," by Gwyn Hyman Rubio (Penguin, \$13.95.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," by Dave Eggers (Vintage, \$14.)
2. "The Four Agreements," by Don Miguel Ruiz (Amber-Allen, \$12.95.)
3. "Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook," by Joshua Piven (Chronicle, \$14.95.)
4. "George W. Bushisms," by Jacob Weisberg. (Fireside, \$9.95.)
5. "The Vagina Monologues," by Eve Ensler (Villard, \$12.95.)
6. "Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook," by Joshua Piven (Chronicle, \$14.95.)
7. "Shrub," by Molly Ivins (Vintage, \$8.99.)
8. "Galileo's Daughter," by Dava Sobel (Penguin, \$14.)
9. "Before Night Falls," by Reinaldo Arenas. (Penguin, \$12.95.)
10. "A General Theory of Love," by Thomas Lewis (Vintage, \$13.)

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

'A Regular Guy' was a recommendation

■ Next Book Club selection is based in the Bay Area

By Lynn Carey

STAFF WRITER

IT'S NO SECRET that the next Times Book Club choice is "A Regular Guy: A Novel," by Mona Simpson (Vintage, \$13, 384 pages). What isn't as well-known is the selection process for choosing

BOOK EXCERPT

The following is an excerpt from the Times Book Club's new selection, "A Regular Guy," by Mona Simpson (Vintage, \$13, 384 pages).

He was a man too busy to flush toilets. More than most people Jane had known, he was oblivious to the issuance from his body that might offend. He didn't believe in deodorant and often professed that with a proper diet and the peppermint castile soap, you would neither perspire nor smell.

This inability, not just to pander but to see any need to pander to the wishes or whims of other people, was unusual in a man who

had political aspirations. It was fortunate, for him, that he was wealthy. Also, he was handsome, so even before his prosperity, he had not been lonely in love. His favorite art was art in the classical mode, particularly public art, in the form of monuments. He was as interested in the Louvre itself as he was in the paintings inside, which, beautiful as some were, and arresting, seemed to him just so many details. If a man wants the face of the earth to look different after his life upon it, he must think on a certain scale.

This afternoon he was taking his daughter to see the Eiffel Tower for the first time. Although he had limited patience for many things, he would never tire of showing places to his children — works, gardens or even states of feeling he had known. Someday, he would show her Italy. Next winter he intended to teach her how to ski. That, for the most part, made up what he believed a father should do for his children: introduce them to the wonders of the world.

Simpson, who has graciously agreed to come to the Times Book Club Gala on Tuesday night, is good friends with new Pulitzer Prize-winner Michael Chabon ("The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay"), who is also appearing at the Gala.

So, read "A Regular Guy," and get your comments in by May 16 to be considered for the small dinner the following week, then helping to lead the discussion at Rakestraw Books on May 23.

■ Mail comments to: Times Book Club, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8099.

■ Remember: Include your name, address and day and evening phone numbers in all correspondences, even e-mail.

■ E-mail comments to: bookclub@cttimes.com.

■ Fax comments to: Times Book Club, 925-943-8362.

■ Group discussion: 7:30 p.m.

on Wednesday, May 23, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. It's free, but call first so they know how many chairs to set up. 925-837-7337.

■ Next Book Club "meeting": Sunday, June 3, in the A&E books section.

■ Book Club questions? Call 925-943-8112.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE			
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE, Trustee Sale No. 01-00167, APN 1585-000-001, Title Order #10247, 538-370-024-VA # Lh- 453-361-000, 04/17/01, TO: L HAROLD ALLEN, UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 1/17/01, UNLESS YOU RECEIVE ACTUAL NOTICE, TELL YOUR PROPERTY IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUB- LIC AUCTION, AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE, AND THE AMOUNT OF THE UNPAID BALANCE, AT: 100195, Book Page of Official Recorders of the Recorder of CONTRA COSTA County, California, 100195, Bldg 1, Rm 100, MONTGOMERY & MARIANO, A MARI- RIED MAN, AS TRU- STOR, LENDER, IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I THE PUBLIC ACTON TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, PAYABLE (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by check, a state or national bank, or cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank, specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and not otherwise limited), BY IT UNDER SAID DEED OF TRUST IN THE PROPERTY SIT- TING ON THE LAND described in the land therein, As more fully de- scribed in the foregoing Signed Deed of Trust. The property heretofore de- scribed is being sold as The street and corner and common designation if any, of the real property described above is fully referred to in 11 4TH ST RICHMOND, CA 94504 The undersigned, who disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the property address and common designation if any, shown herein, said to be sold with all warranties, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or amount of the notes, to pay the remaining principal sum of the notes, secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the Court, and the costs of the Trust, to wit:	\$109,561.09 (Estimated Accrued interest and addi- tional advances, if any, under the terms of the note(s), to be paid to the Trustee by the highest bidder at the public auction, caused by the undersigned, and deposited and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of De- fault and Demand for Sale and Notice of Trustee's Sale, and to file a Notice of Default and Election to Sale. The undersigned caused the undersigned to file a Notice of Default and Elec- tion to Sale in the county where the real property is located and more particularly set forth such recording. Dated 04/12/01 AFM FINANCIAL CORPORATION, AS TRU- STOR, LENDER, IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I THE PUBLIC ACTON TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, PAYABLE (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by check, a state or national bank, or cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank, specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and not otherwise limited), BY IT UNDER SAID DEED OF TRUST IN THE PROPERTY SIT- TING ON THE LAND described in the land therein, As more fully de- scribed in the foregoing Signed Deed of Trust. 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At right time, the Trustee will cause to be filed a Notice of Default and Election to sell the property described in the Deed of Trust, to wit, \$10,443.31 Dated April 13, 2001, Fid- elity National Financial Services, Inc., as trustee, 5636 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92121, (619) 574-2698 (619) 387-7128 (714) 735-1968 Sales Informa- tion, By Grand Writers Assocation, Inc., ASAP#25789, 4/3, 4/20 Legal El Centro Journal #0592 Publish April 13, 20, 27, 2001.	the County Court-house, 725 Court Street (corner of 7th and Court Streets), Martinez, CA. 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LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE			
Fictitious Business Name Statements						
After filing your Fictitious Business Name Statement with the County Clerk in Oakland or Martinez, you will need to publish it within 30 days of filing in a Newspaper of General Circulation in the area where your business is located. To publish a Fictitious Business Name Statement in the Alameda Journal, Montclair, Piedmont, Berkeley Voice or El Cerrito Journal, please submit a stamped and typed copy. We will publish your notice once a week for 4 weeks, file the Proof of Publication with the County Clerk and provide you with a copy for your records. Please contact us at the telephone number below for cost information. Then, mail or deliver it to 1516 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501. For more information, call 510-748-1666.						

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Fictitious Business Name Statements

After filing your Fictitious Business Name Statement with the County Clerk in Oakland or Martinez, you will need to publish it within 30 days of filing in a Newspaper of General Circulation in the area where your business is located. To publish a Fictitious Business Name Statement in the Alameda Journal, Montclarion, Piedmont, Berkeley Voice or El Cerrito Journal, please submit a stamped and filed copy. We will publish your notice once a week for 4 weeks, file the Proof of Publication with the County Clerk and provide you with a copy for your records. Please contact us at the telephone number below for cost information. Then, mail or deliver it to 1516 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501. For more information call 510-748-1666.

Name
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the your
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Berkeley
submit a
establish
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and your
telephone
Then,
ation,

a state or federal savings and loan association, savings and loan bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in California. The undersigned Trustee, the undisputed owner, liable for any inaccuracy of address and other correspondence designated by the grantor above, shall cause the Sale will be made without consideration with or without express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness of the grantor as set forth in the instrument of sale, executed by JOYCE MALONE ANU MARIE HARRIS, as co-trustee, as trustee, recorded on 12/20/1999, as Instrument No. 1999-00000000-00 in the Official Records of Contra Costa County, California.

The unpaid balance of the principal paid back of the obligation secured by the property, and all costs and expenses

to be sold and reasonable expenses incurred prior to the initial publication of the Notice of Sale, including attorney's fees and cash, the Trustee will accept, on behalf of the co-trustee, a check drawn by a bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a savings and loan association, savings and loan bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or in the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee will accept the same in reliance of the Trustee's Demand for funds become available, the trustee or an endorsed as trustee or co-trustee, the Sale will be made, but without covenant of title, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the indebtedness of the grantor, as set forth in the instrument of sale, executed by JOYCE MALONE ANU MARIE HARRIS, as co-trustee, as trustee, recorded on 12/20/1999, as Instrument No. 1999-00000000-00 in the Official Records of Contra Costa County, California.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
CLERK OF THE COURT
By C. GALT
Deputy
FILE NO. 2001-2347
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
The name of the business,
THE AUTO APPEAL PROFESSIONAL,
2757 1st Street, San Pablo,
CA 94805
This business is hereby
registered by the following
(owner(s))
Marion Davis
2757 1st St.
San Pablo, CA 94806
This business is conducted
by an individual
as follows:
Marion Davis
This statement was filed
with the County Clerk of
Contra Costa on behalf of
the above named individual.
Business commenced on
April 03, 2001
Expires April 03, 2006
Published The Journal #0595
Published April 20, 27 May 4,
11, 2001.

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To place an ad, call 339-8777. For Alameda call 748-1667.

Three books are shown stacked vertically. The top book is titled "THE BERKELEY WAY" by Robert Coates. The middle book is titled "The Counterrevolution" by Robert Coates. The bottom book is titled "Ayn Rand Journal".

Classifieds

EL CERRITO PTA NEWS

Band Festival

May 3, Area Band Festival - 7:30 p.m. at the Portola Middle School Gym. Advanced bands from area elementary schools, Portola and ECHS Symphonic Band will perform. Musicians call 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Bayside Council of PTAs

May 7, Council meeting, 7 p.m. in the faculty room at Pinole Middle School, 1575 Mann St., Pinole. Guests are Doug Spangler and Jane Del Simon from WCCUSD Adult Education.

Adams Middle School

■ Adams school wide flea market is Saturday, May 19. All proceeds benefit either the PTA, school club or group of students. Adams is located at 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond.

Castro Elementary

■ May 2, Pizza night, 5-8 p.m. at Pizza Roma in El Cerrito Safeway parking lot. Pizza Roma donates 25 percent of all proceeds when you mention Castro.

■ May 9, PTA meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library.

■ May 10, Talent Show - 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room.

Portola Middle School

■ April 28, Earth Day Celebration clean up and activities, 8 a.m. to noon. Bring gloves for your family members, including children. Bring your own tools, (e.g., shovels, rakes, etc.) Only limited loans on hand. Shovels, rakes and ladders are needed. Items also needed: 1-gallon claret purple ("Orchid Spot Rockrose"), 1-gallon Cistus Skanbergii ("hybrid rockrose"), 1-gallon geranium plants (red), 1-gallon daisies (yellow), left over Easter lilies, landscaping fabric (35-inch x 18-inch), fabric fasteners, 200-foot hose (or two 100-foot hoses, w/ coupler), disposable gloves (for folks who forgot theirs). Details, Lisa Loshay@aol.com.

■ May 11, Pizza Night - 5-8 p.m. at Pizza Roma, in El Cerrito Safeway parking lot. Pizza Roma will donate 25 percent of proceeds when you mention Portola.

WCCUSD Calendar

May 12, Family and Parent Resources Fair - 8:30 a.m. to noon at Richmond High, 1250 23rd St., Richmond. Free.

Items? Call Linda Takimoto at 237-6183 or email: ltakimoto@yahoo.com

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Tradeshow - 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday - May 10, 2001

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Free workshops 3-5 PM by Urban Ore, Berkeley's Office of Economic Development and Trutte, and white. Telephone 549-7003 for additional information. Don't miss this opportunity to visit the many participating vendors. Invite your own customers, employees and friends to attend.

Come for the show - stay for the sunset!

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Contact the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce for information: phone 510-524-7003 or e-mail chamber@nat.com

I trust them with all my heart.

Merlie Guerrero is not just an ER nurse at Doctors Medical Center

San Pablo. She's also a patient. When Merlie found out she had to have triple bypass surgery, she wanted to be where she felt safe - Doctors Medical Center San Pablo was her choice. After providing 20 years of dedicated nursing service, she knew first hand the level of care she could expect to receive at Doctors Medical Center. It's this kind of long-standing commitment to excellence that helps ensure a patient-centered environment. And as our community grows and changes, so does our range of advanced medical capabilities. Yet one thing will always remain constant - our pledge to put the patients' needs first. For advanced medical services, look no further than your own community hospital. Doctors Medical Center San Pablo. Call **800-206-WELL** (9355) or visit us online at www.drsmedicalcenter.com

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3 DAYS ONLY - FRIDAY APRIL 27TH THROUGH SUNDAY APRIL 29TH!

STORE-WIDE AUDIO & VIDEO CLEARANCE SALE!

This weekend you'll find all sorts of audio & video items on sale that are open boxed, display model, customer returns, refurbished or slightly blemished and discounted up to 50%. This sale includes everything from High Definition TV's, VCR's and Big Screens to Digital Receivers, Speakers and DVD Players.

Below is just a partial sampling of the hundreds of available items.

13"-32" COLOR TV'S

32"-36" COLOR TV'S

46"-73" HDTV-READY

45"-60" BIG SCREENS

HOME AUDIO & VIDEO

RCA AC/DC 13" Color TV with remote convenience.
Orig. \$299. E133SB Refrb. \$97

PANASONIC stereo 32" color TV monitor with remote.
Orig. \$649. CT32G34 \$477

FAMOUS NAME stereo 52" with 4:3 screen format.
Orig. \$2999. VS45603 \$1997

MITSUBISHI stereo 45" with 2-tuner picture in picture.
Orig. \$1499. VS45603 \$997

PANASONIC VHS VCR includes remote convenience.
Orig. \$199. PVQV201 \$47

GE 13" Color TV/VCR combo with remote control.
Orig. \$299. 13TVR62B Refrb. \$117

RCA stereo 36" color TV includes remote convenience.
Orig. \$799. F36673 \$547

MITSUBISHI in-box 46" with 16:9 widescreen format.
Orig. \$2999. WT46805 \$1999

RCA stereo 46" features 2-tuner picture in picture.
Orig. \$1199. P46820 \$997

SONY VHS Hi-Fi stereo VCR with remote convenience.
Orig. \$199. SCWN50 \$67

RCA stereo 25" color TV with V-Chip parental control.
Orig. \$329. F25261 \$147

PROSCAN stereo 36" features 2-tuner picture in picture.
Orig. \$1199. PS36700 \$647

MITSUBISHI stereo 65" with 16:9 widescreen format.
Orig. \$4999. WS65903 \$2297

RCA stereo 52" features 2-tuner picture in picture.
Orig. \$1399. P52920 \$1097

MITSUBISHI DVD/CD player with component video out.
Orig. \$299. DD4000 \$147

RCA stereo 26" color TV features picture in picture.
Orig. \$349. F26645B Refrb. \$177

SONY stereo 32" WEGA features 2-tuner picture in picture.
Orig. \$999. KV32FS10 \$697

FAMOUS NAME stereo 60" with 4:3 screen format.
Orig. \$3999. VS60603 \$2697

MITSUBISHI stereo 50" with 2-tuner picture in picture.
Orig. \$1799. VS50603 \$1397

SONY DVD/CD player includes remote convenience.
Orig. \$349. DVPS330 \$157

RCA stereo 27" color TV includes universal remote.
Orig. \$399. F27647B Refrb. \$197

PANASONIC stereo 32" with two-tuner picture in picture.
Orig. \$999. CT32FS36 \$747

MITSUBISHI stereo 73" with 16:9 widescreen format.
Orig. \$8999. WS73903 \$2997

SONY stereo 53" features 2-tuner picture in picture.
Orig. \$2199. KV53V80 \$1527

SONY 200-disc storage changer with remote control.
Orig. \$299. CDPCX295 \$177

PANASONIC stereo 27" Super Flat picture tube TV.
Orig. \$599. CT27SF36 \$297

SONY stereo 35" Trinitron color TV with remote control.
Orig. \$999. KV35SA40 \$797

MITSUBISHI in-box stereo 50" with 4:3 screen format.
Orig. \$3499. VS50805 \$2999

FAMOUS NAME stereo 55" with twin-tuner PIP.
Orig. \$2199. VS55805 \$1797

SONY ES 80 watt A/V receiver with Dolby ProLogic.
Orig. \$849. STR033ES \$447

RCA stereo 32" color TV includes remote convenience.
Orig. \$599. F32648B Refrb. \$347

SONY stereo 32" XBR WEGA with twin-tuner PIP.
Orig. \$1699. KV32XB250 \$1397

SONY stereo 61" features 4:3 screen format & PIP.
Orig. \$4999. KP61XB300 \$3497

FAMOUS NAME stereo 60" with twin-tuner PIP.
Orig. \$2299. VS60707 \$1897

DENON last year's best receiver with Dolby Digital.
Orig. \$999. AVR3300 \$497

SONY 32" Trinitron color TV with remote convenience.
Orig. \$699. KV32S40 \$497

SONY stereo 36" XBR WEGA with twin-tuner PIP.
Orig. \$2099. KV36XB250 \$1497

FAMOUS NAME in-box 65" with 16:9 widescreen format.
Orig. \$5499. VS65707 \$3999

MITSUBISHI in-box 60" w/ 2-tuner and Diamond Shield.
Orig. \$2699. VS60707 \$2399

FAMOUS NAME in-box full size six speaker system.
Orig. \$1099. VS60707 \$499



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ALBANY PTA NEWS

MacGregor High School

May 17, open house, 7 p.m.

Albany High School

- April 28, 7 p.m., Theater Study Class presents five short plays directed and produced by the advanced students, about two hours long, free, AHS Little Theater
- May 7, Open House, 7 p.m.
- May 14, Band Boosters meeting, 7 p.m., AHS band room
- May 15, Athletic Boosters meet, 7 p.m.
- June 15, Senior Boat Cruise following graduation, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., four adult chaperones needed, e-mail Becca Sanchez at beccas@pacbell.net

Albany Middle School

- Volunteers needed for Homework Club, Monday-Thursday, 3:15-4:15, AMS Library. If available any day, e-

mail Sara Danielson at sarad@albany.k12.ca.us.

- **Volunteers Needed** to provide teacher treats April 27 and May 1 if you can bring bagels and cream cheese, muffins, fruit or vegetable trays, call Karen McKeown at 415-262-9633 (work) or kzmkeown@yahoo.com

- May 2 (Wednesday), PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Library
- May 3-5, School Play
- May 7-11, Book Fair open all day including Open House. **Volunteers needed**, (Set-up Saturday May 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.) Call Karen Carlson-Olson, 524-7004
- May 9, Open House, 7 p.m.

Cornell Elementary

- May 12, Silly Olympics
- May 15, PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- May 17, Open House, 7 p.m.

Marin Elementary

- May 12, Silly Olympics
- May 15, PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- May 17, Open House, 7 p.m.

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Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, April 27, 2001

Section D

Classic Classics Last of the factory-built convertibles made by Cadillac in '76 [D2]



DENISE MCCLUGGAGE

Drive She Said

Cars require maintenance

■ Despite claims you may have heard to the contrary

People are more careless in the care of their cars than they were 15 years ago. Manufacturers must accept some blame for this neglect, because they keep harping on how little maintenance their cars now require.

First came stretching the oil change interval. Maybe your memory has to go back to the days when cars had running boards to recall when 1,000 miles was the recommended interval between changes. As oils improved, that interval grew to 2,000 miles. Then 3,000.

And 3,000 is what most mechanics advocate for assuring the longest life for your engine. Synthetic oils, commensurate with their higher prices, go for about three times.)

But some owners' manuals that manufacturers put in glove compartments give a nudge and a wink and say, "Hey, 7,500 miles is often enough. Even 10,000." Carmakers want to impress you with how un-demanding their car is. (And, cynics might say, "Why should manufacturers care if your car wears out faster? They make new ones every day.") But then again, cynics also say that technicians push the 3,000-mile figure because they want to

See DRIVE, Page D2



2001 NISSAN QUEST comes with a full entertainment system in the back and full control of stereo settings and cruise control on the steering wheel

New Nissan Quest offers parents peace and quiet

■ Minivan designed with families in mind

For parents who want to keep their children entertained and quiet on a drive, the 2001 Nissan Quest has a solution. Let the kids watch a video cassette.

The Quest is a seven-passenger minivan that is loaded with safety, comfort, and convenience; and the most outstanding amenity is a 6.4-inch LCD ceiling-mounted screen complete with a video cassette and rear-seat remote control.

Children can listen to the sound for this Entertainment Center using headsets, leaving adults to converse or listen to a CD through a separate sound system.

The Quest includes another thoughtful feature, allowing the driver to keep a watchful eye on the kids. A panoramic mirror provides the driver a view of what is going on in the back seats.

Before getting aboard, I took a quick walk around this minivan, admiring the new aggressive styling that features redesigned front fascia and rear finisher. Even the door

handles have a different twist; the handle that opens the sliding door is mounted in the opposite direction from the front door handle. The Quest stands on six-spoke, 16-inch wheels giving the minivan a sporty attitude.

Once aboard, I felt right at home in the driver's seat with all the instruments quite understandable and within easy reach. After I set the

memory seat position, the settings, including the outside mirrors, returned to the preset position after simply clicking a remote keyfob.

The steering wheel on the Quest GLE is a work of art, featuring Italian burl wood and hand-stitched leather. On each side of the steering wheel are buttons for cruise control on the left and radio setting on the right.

My tester was the top-of-the-line GLE model selling for \$27,578. This model features leather seats with a sliding third-row seat. The seating has various configurations, ranging

from a two- to seven-seater, depending upon the needs at the moment. Nissan boasts that up to 24 configurations with a bench seat and 66 with the second-row captain's chairs. The flexible seating can be created by removing the second row of seats and moving the third row forward on integrated rails. By simply sliding the seats down or by removing them, the Quest becomes a versatile vehicle with loading through the rear if needed, a roof rack can carry

See KEANE, Page D2

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Chevy, Ford pickups offer a new breed of tow vehicles

RV enthusiasts enjoy a wide variety of choices when it comes to selecting a tow vehicle. Pickups, vans, sport utility vehicles and — in the past — automobiles of all types have given those who would tow trailers a lot of ways to go.

Today's vehicle-buying dollar has to go even farther than before, and many younger buyers can't afford a separate vehicle that's mostly used for recreation with occasional family functions thrown in.

The family car also has to be the family recreational hauler. While many past vehicles have served this purpose well, the auto manufacturers are taking heed and crafting a new generation of rigs that go even farther towards being the ultimate all-purpose vehicles.

The new Ford Explorer Sport Trac was arguably the first of this new breed of vehicles that are part SUV and part pickup, with some of the best features of each.

The Sport Trac is approximately the same size as an Explorer and includes a four-door cab backed by a small pickup-style bed that's 50-inches long.

Serious pickup users may look at the Sport Trac and laugh at the seemingly tiny bed, but many pickups are mainly used for family transportation and very seldom haul cargo that actually requires a pickup. In this sense, the Sport Trac is a more than reasonable compromise.

Its cab will comfortably handle four or five occupants, and the bed

can be used for those occasional bark dust, firewood, bicycle or ATV hauling chores.

For extra-long loads, a Cargo Cage bed extender folds down with the tailgate lowered and creates a secure cargo area the combined length of the bed and tailgate surface.

Based on its mid-size component, the Sport Trac can be rated to tow as much as 5,300 pounds, which places it in the modest-to-average-size trailer capacity. This towing capacity requires the 210-horsepower, 4.0-liter engine, as well as the automatic transmission and 4.10:1 axle ratio in the 2WD vehicle.

The 4WD version can tow 5,080 pounds with the same powertrain.

Ford further enhances the Sport Trac's versatility with a variety of factory-approved racks and hold-downs for bicycles, kayaks and other toys.

The Sport Trac houses these features in a 125.9-inch wheelbase, which is a highly maneuverable size as a sensible city car.

Meanwhile, the recently-introduced Chevrolet Avalanche takes the multi-use vehicle concept several steps further.

Based on the Chevrolet Suburban chassis platform, the full-size Avalanche is configured with a four-door body and a fairly short 63-inch pickup-style bed.

It resembles a conventional four-door, crew-cab-style short box pickup. Four or five adults can be

TIM SPELL
Truck Talk

Are companies like Ford and Chevrolet responding to a real market need, or are they anticipating a future need and attempting to have products in place to fill it when it arises?

accommodated in complete comfort in the 2002 Avalanche, and a reasonable amount of cargo will fit in the bed, which has three interlockable solid-surface tonneau covers for weather protection.

When the rig's cargo-hauling ability is needed most, the rear passenger seat flips and folds forward, the back window glass pops out and fits in a secure storage spot in the aft cab wall.

The entire aft wall bulkhead folds forward to create a flat cargo floor that's level with the aft bed area. In this configuration, the Avalanche can haul items as large as full 4x8 sheets of plywood.

In addition, the aft glass can be left in place which, along with the hard tonneau covers, maintains the weather-tight integrity of the cargo area.

Alternately, the tonneau can be



CHEVY'S 2002 AVALANCHE is a dual-use tow vehicle. The pickup bed holds heavy cargo. The 8.1-liter engine can tow up to 12,000 pounds.

removed and the entire aft end of the truck used for tall or bulky items, or simply left wide open for fresh-air motoring fun.

This superb design flexibility makes the Avalanche the nearly ultimate dual-use tow vehicle. A full set of people, or a full pile of cargo, can be easily accommodated.

Are companies like Ford and Chevrolet responding to a real market need, or are they anticipating a future need and attempting to have products in place to fill it when it

arises? Or are they simply being smart by producing vehicles that make good investments for people who have many uses for their daily transportation?

Whatever the reason, the new generation of multi-use tow vehicles adds an interesting touch of variety to the RV-towing marketplace.

Tim Spell is the automotive writer for the Houston Chronicle's Cars & Trucks section.

Faulty oil pressure sender could be the culprit

Dear Doctor: I own a 1977 Lincoln Town Car 460 with a V-8 engine with 90,000 miles. My problem is the oil light comes on when the engine is hot, both in idle and in drive. If I shift into neutral and race the engine, the oil light goes out. I have the oil changed every 3,000 miles. What could be the problem? Al

Dear Al: The first thing to do is check the oil pressure with a shop mechanical oil pressure gauge. Hot idle in gear. The oil pressure at idle speed needs to be at a minimum of 15 pounds. A faulty oil pressure sender may be your only problem. Worse case scenario would reveal a faulty oil pump and/or worn engine bearings. You could try using 20/40 performance oil. This oil is thicker than the 5/40, and oil pressure will be higher. The thicker oil will fill the worn bearing area with more oil. I have seen switching to 20/40 oil eliminate the oil light and low oil pressure at idle.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1993 Cadillac Deville with a 4.9-liter V-8 engine that has 77,000 miles. My only complaint is the loss of gas mileage. Over the past 7 years, gas mileage has gone from 25 miles per gallon to 18 mpg highway. The Cadillac dealer had tested the engine on the computer, charged me \$170, and told me there is nothing wrong. What do you think? Joseph

Dear Joseph: I have seen a couple of cars a week with this complaint. A lazy oxygen sensor, air charge temperature and low coolant sensor, weak vacuum to the map sensor, lazy map sensor, weak thermostat, and insufficient engine temperature — all will contribute to more gas consumption. Another possibility is the transmission is not going into overdrive. Synthetic oil in most cases will add about one mile per gallon.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1993 Cadillac Sedan Deville in which the SSS

service light has come on. The dealer said the repair would cost \$813. The diagnosis is a faulty left rear strut. I have decided to wait until there is a noticeable difference in the ride and handling. Is this problem common? The car has been great for the past 8 years. Robert.

Dear Robert: Your Cadillac has speed sensitive suspension. There is an electric sensor at the top of each strut. The electric sensor is the most common failure. If the strut itself went bad, the ride and the ride height would be affected. Struts of these late model Cadillacs frequently fail.

JUNIOR DAMATO

Ask the Auto Doctor

Dear Doctor: I am the original owner of a 1983 Ford Ranger pickup that has only 57,000 miles. My problem is I had the windshield replaced, and then water started leaking onto the floor both driver and passenger sides when it rains. The glass company replaced the windshield. Water still leaks in when it rains. No one has been able to fix

See DOCTOR, Page D4

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Doctor

FROM PAGE D3
the leak. What do you advise? Linda

Dear Linda: Water leaks usually are not difficult to find. Simply run a garden hose over the roof and have a second person — wearing safety glasses and using a flashlight — look under the dash for the water entry points.

If you cannot do this procedure yourself, contact a local body shop to do this work or suggest someone who can.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1981 Porsche 924 with only 75,000 miles. My problem is the car is very hard to start after sitting a few days. Any ideas? John

Dear John: You didn't say if the hard start is a low battery or long crank time. If the problem is a low

battery, check the battery total amp and volt breakdown and then conduct a parasitic drain test. If the problem is long crank time, my guess is lack of fuel.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1997 Ford F150 with a 4.6-liter V8 engine. The factory tire size is 235/75R16. I was thinking of changing the tire size to 245/75R16 to improve the gas mileage.

Also, would dual exhaust help improve the mileage? Bobby

Dear Bobby: The 245/75R16 tire is taller and narrower than the 235/75R16.

Rim width, load carrying weight and speedometer correction need to be considered with this size change.

You could step up to 245/70R16 without making any changes. If you are looking for improved gas mileage, a low-restriction exhaust, and an air filter would improve per-

formance and gas mileage.

Highway tread pattern with proper air pressure will also add to gas mileage.

Dear Doctor: I recently purchased a 1994 Toyota Camry with just over 100,000 miles.

The only complaint I have is a vibration at idle with the car in gear when I stop. I took the car to the dealer who said the vibration is normal.

I had the opportunity to drive two other Camrys; one neither had the vibration. Bill

Dear Bill: Some older Camrys did have a vibration at idle. A slight vibration is normal.

However, weak engine mounts — especially the front liquid-filled mount — loose belts, low idle speed: all can contribute to a vibration at idle in gear.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1990 Plymouth Grand Voyager purchased

new in late 1989.

It currently has 192,000 miles. My problem is occasionally the engine will stall. Most of the time it restarts. One morning it would not start.

The next morning it started right up. There are no codes in the computer. What can you suggest? Foster

Dear Foster: This problem will require some diagnostic time. Both fuel pressure and spark need to be checked for the no-start condition, as well as the stalling out.

There are many possibilities. See if the shop will hook up both a spark and fuel pressure tester.

When the engine dies or no-start happens, you can monitor testers and report to the shop technician.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.

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All 2001 4x4's

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27K miles \$42,6072	Only 20,500 M \$26,688.75	97 Honda Accord LX SD	98 Lincoln Town Car
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\$11,995	\$16,995	\$14,995	\$15,300
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925-325-7400 - Fremont
925-744-4559 - Alameda
510-644-4755 - Berkeley
510-533-5603 - Oakland

CAT, huge feral, tabby, 3-5
yrs., Macnepon, Sh. Blvd.
Bollinger 925-279-1422

DOG, male, Dachshund
found at Davies & Persing,
no collar, 10 yrs., 25 lbs.

DOG, Sm, blond terrier
mix? 7 yrs., 10-12 lbs.

NECKLACE Found on Iron
Horse Trail, call 925-838-1789

(925) 838-1789

4B Lost

AFRICAN GRAY, Aracielo,
El Sobrante Reward, lost

4/12, (510) 222-1508

AFRICAN grey parrot, lost
in Trinity pl. vacinity. Mar-
nes reward! 925-568-3614

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CAT, white, longhair, 1 yr.,
weight 1925-260-9022

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REWARD Great sentiment
te value. (415) 246-5983

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2 yrs., black & tan, griffon
hair (greyish brn.) Cat wian
info. (925) 939-8785

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2 yrs., 60 lbs., found in
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San Ramon. \$200 Reward
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215-3045

PITBULL, mix, tan &
white, 1-1/2 yrs., 100 lbs.,
Reward Hwy 17 downwrd
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REWARD Great

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SEE PAGE 19B

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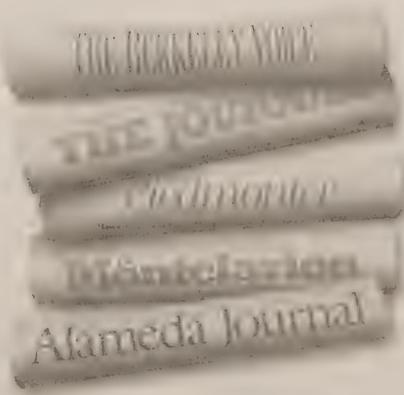
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DRIVER: Class A for local flatbed trucking co. Please call Rob at (707) 475-5707.

DRIVER

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Cresco Equipment Rentals is hiring F/T exp. Drivers for Livermore, Pleasant Hill & Oakley. Class C & CDL. Must have clean DMV record. Fax resume to (925) 454-2996 EOE

DRIVERS

With Class A needed to deliver various products around Benicia. Part time. Daily. Drivers currently avg. 10 hrs. per day. \$12.50/hour. Bonus-\$2.50. Qual: 25 yrs. old, Class A lic. with 2 yrs. exp. Call 707-475-0519 or 877-314-0700

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F/T, PT, Bnts. other duties. Age req. over 21. Good DMV. Apply at 2666 Willow Pass Rd., Concord.

DRIVER/Delivery FT, PT,

Mon-Fri, 8-5 hr., mill, clean, clear, & reliable. No Selling. Call 925-547-1878

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No exp. rec. will train. Appt. 1133 Bonita Ln. W.O.

DRIVER/Truck exp.

clean. Class C. F/T, 4040

DRIVER exp'd Water Truck

driver. Class B. must

dependable. Call (925) 779-0427 after 6pm

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PERIOD.

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HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT MECHANIC I

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT ELECTRICIAN I

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EITHER I: Completion of a recognized apprenticeship* as
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Electrician.

OR II:

HEP Operator: Two years of operating experience in one or a combination
of hydroelectric generating plants, large (at least 25,000 hp)
pump plants, high voltage switching and clearances in large (at least 100
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kv may be substituted for one year of the required experience.) Special
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HEP Mechanic I: One year of journeyperson experience maintaining and
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HEP Electrician I: One year of journeyperson experience performing
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*Apprentices who are within six months of completion of their apprenticeship may be admitted
to the examination, but they must present evidence of completion of the apprenticeship before
they may be appointed.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications may be mailed or filed in person:

ATTN: Personnel Office
Department of Water Resources

Delta Field Division
5280 Bruns Road (West end of Kelso Road)

Byron, CA 94514
PHONE: (209) 833-2025

Applications are available at Water Resources in Byron or they can be obtained
from your personnel placement/employment department. Applications can also
be completed on-line at <http://exams.spo.ca.gov/capp.htm> and can be printed
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HAIRSTYLIST education
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\$2000 + Imo 925-778-1350

HAIR CUTTER/BARBER

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HAIR CUTTER/BARBER

Job Network

The best and largest employment classified section in the greater East Bay Area

250 Help Wanted

LEGAL

USA STAFFING

Excellent Job Opportunities for Legal Professionals In the Tri Valley area.

Immed. openings for Attorneys, Paralegals, Legal Secretaries, Clerks, Support Personnel.

For a confidential interview, FAX resume to: 925/458-9855

LIBRARIAN II

Adult Reference

Marin County

\$3,568 - \$4,250/Mo
Req'd: 2 yrs equiv. & 2 yr prf. public or academic library exp. Apply by 5/25/01.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT II

\$2,500 - \$3,150/Mo

Req'd: HS or equiv. & one year publ. or academic library exp. performing client tasks including research, patrons. Library computer exp. desirable.

Applies to: 5/1/01

Apply online: <http://www.marin.org/mcrj> or contact RM 403, 3501 Civic Center Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903 or call: 415-459-6104 EOE/AE/TD

LOAN OFFICER

Livemore, etc., high Income Co-leads, Inc. Train right person for a team. We are looking for a team player w/ a good sense of humor. Fri. 8:30am-5:30pm. Melissa: 510/353-2121 x210

LOAN PROCESSOR

W/MIN. 1 YR. EXP. FLOWN. 10% BONUS. IMMEDIATE OPENING.

Michael 925/825-9001

LOAN

RESULTS GET REWARDED

The housing market is still booming and so is GreenPoint. GreenPoint is a top resource for a niche housing market lending has an excellent Underwriting opportunity in Our Market.

UNDERWRITERS

In your role, you will underwrite loans, analyze documentation to determine acceptability, evaluate appraisals and review title reports. You will have 3+ years of underwriting experience, thorough knowledge of agency and underwriting guidelines, and excellent customer service, organization, initiative, telephone communication and PC skills. Be a sides a great work ethic, we offer an outstanding salary plus bonus incentive and benefits package. Please forward resume to:

GreenPoint Mortgage, 1101 Lakeside Park, CA 94928

fax: (415) 464-5326; E-mail: resumes@greenpoint.com

LOANS

Calling all mortgage professionals! WE WANT YOU!

Preferred placement in many interviews throughout executive level. Many new positions available, including:

• Underwriters

• Loan Processors

AU exp. a must

• Doc drawers

• Orig. Underwriters

Don't feel guilty just because you're a work-a-holic. We can help you!

We can help you!

E-mail resumes to: michelle@recruiting.com or fax to (925) 246-6494.

LOANS

Calling all mortgage professionals!

WE WANT YOU!

Preferred placement in many interviews throughout executive level. Many new positions available, including:

• Underwriters

• Loan Processors

IMMEDIATE NEED

2 yrs exp. req. Excel base

Co-op or perm. Fax res.

To Wayne (925) 552-7113

LOAN

* Step Into great jobs *

Call SRS First

We have the best jobs for Underwriters, Processors,

Funders, Doc Drawers,

Loan Officers, etc.

Top \$3Temp/Direct Hire

Benefits & Relocation

FAX resume

925-943-6512

SRS Group

925-943-6575

WHEN YOU NEED TO SELL IT NOW TRY CLASSIFIED

Loans

Washtenaw Mortgage is looking to fill some positions at its Pleasant Hill office.

Data Entry DU Specialist

Data entry skills, mortgage lending experience and/or DU/P experience a bonus. Customer service skills helpful, but not necessary.

DE Underwriter

Current DE experience with minimum 3 yrs underwriting experience. Strong customer service and data entry skills a must. We offer a competitive salary and benefits with an opportunity to grow in the mortgage lending field.

Please send resumes and salary requirements to:

Washtenaw Mortgage Co.,

315 E. Eisenhower, Ste 12,

Ann Arbor, MI 48108 or

FAX to: 734-662-9517

E.O.E.

Hr@washtenawmortgage.com

WASHTENAW MORTGAGE

250 Help Wanted

LOANS

SIGN-ON BONUS

Maintenance

Jobman

Fri. 2nd shift (3pm-

11pm). Req'd: 1 yr.

Industrial exp. in gen. plant

repairs with strong empha-

sis on production & maint.

training w/resp. Min.

req'd. 8 yrs. Supv. exp.

Constr. and/or equip. pref.

Fax res. w/resp. hist. TPR

EOE. Submit resume to:

Prod. Manager, PO Box

926, Pleasanton, CA 94566

250 Help Wanted

Underwriters (2)

Min. 3 yrs. loan underwrit-

ing exp. Thorough knowl-

edge of FNMA, FHLMC &

portfolio guidelines, and compre-

hensive computer skills a

must. Moderate to heavy physical

education req. Must be a

skilled communicator.

EOE. Submit resume to:

Prod. Manager, PO Box

926, Pleasanton, CA 94566

250 Help Wanted

Funder

Individual must have 1+

year's experience in

loan underwriting and

possess a working knowl-

edge of residential mortgag-

e procedures.

EOE. Submit resume to:

Prod. Manager, PO Box

926, Pleasanton, CA 94566

250 Help Wanted

DOWNEY SAVINGS

The selected candidates

will have 2+ yrs underwrit-

ing experience, prefera-

bly FNMA/HUD.

Must possess effective oral/commu-

nication skills.

EOE. Submit resume to:

Prod. Manager, PO Box

926, Pleasanton, CA 94566

250 Help Wanted

APPRAISAL REVIEW CLERK

Strong experience in ap-

praisal reviewing and good

computer skills, research

and analytical skills are a

must. We offer competitive com-

pensation and excellent ben-

efits. Call 925-321-1887 or e-mail to:

resumes@nocon.com

250 Help Wanted

Receptionist

Corte Madera

Selecting our individual

with a desire for support to

provide assistance in the

workplace. We are

looking for individuals who

are willing to learn about the

underwriting process.

To Apply for Position:

Resumes to:

WinCure

195 Tamalpias Blvd.

Corte Madera, CA 94925

Attn: HR Dept OR

Fax to: 415-459-1059

An Equal Opportunity Employer

250 Help Wanted

MACHINIST

Marin county mfg. firm

has an opening for a

Machinist to work in

a machine shop. Applic-

able must be capable of

working from blueprints

engineering sketches and

engineering drawings. Set-

up, align, turn, face, mill

vertical, horizontal, slotting

drill, ream, bore, countersink

and use hand tools. Must

make complex shop calcu-

lations using formulas to

determine feed rates and

spindle speeds for various

metals. 5 years of expe-

rience as a machinist re-

quired. Comp. w/ 8% P/B

ben. To apply call 415-459-1059

an equal opportunity employer

250 Help Wanted

Maintenance

Alameda church needs F/T

person to do building main-

tenance, grounds, etc. Must

care, repetitive lifting,

more. Flex. hours. Benefits.

Resumes to: Senior Christ

Church, 700 Santa Clara

Alameda, CA 94501. FAX

510-523-1561.

250 Help Wanted

Maintenance

Person needed on call for medical

facility. Medical exp. req.

req. Call 925-939-9402

250 Help Wanted

Maintenance-SNF SUPV.

Knowledge of bld. codes.

Good commun. skills. Cen-

tral supply & supervisory

req'd. Fax resume:

510-232-0100 or 233-8513

Sheilds Richland Ask

for Ms. Miller

250 Help Wanted

Underwriter/CSR

Wholesale, conventional mortgage company is seeking a candidate

with strong financial and cus-

tomer service background to

fill a position in our Pleasant

Hill, California office. Excellent

mathematical knowledge required. FHA experience a plus. Excellent

mathematical ability and cus-

tom service skills required.

Receptionist

Immediate opening for the right candidate in our Pleasant Hill,

California branch office. Excellent customer service skills required to handle incoming calls and data entry. Full time position with

benefits.

Please send resumes and salary requirements to:

Washtenaw Mortgage Co.,

315 E. Eisenhower, Ste 12,

Ann Arbor, MI 48108 or

FAX to: 734-662-9517

E.O.E.

Hr@washtenawmortgage.com

WASHTENAW MORTGAGE

250 Help Wanted

MANUFACTURING SUPERVISOR

With strong computer ex-

perience for a manufacturing

company in Montclair, Ca.

experience include word

processing, database

management, and produc-

tion scheduling. Prefer some

knowledge of Powerpoint.

Call 510-339-6533

Job Network

The best and largest employment classified section in the greater East Bay

250 Help Wanted

NURSING

RN Case Manager
For local IPA CMU/M, In & Out patient case mgmt. Strong clinical & case svcs skills. Must be bilingual. Bilingual pref'd Full & P/T Competitive sal/bns. Fax resume 925-706-6332

NURSING

RN/nights \$24+
LVN/nights \$20+

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THE

COMFORTS OF HOME

At Vintage Estates you'll find the warm, caring feelings that makes being at home so enjoyable.

SO

Treat Yourself and Welcome Home

VINTAGE ESTATES

12910 El Dorado Dr.,
Greenbrae, CA 94545
415-461-9010

• Generous Sign on Bonus

NURSING \$2000-\$2500
2 days per week, 8am-5pm, S/NF
Apply 625 Willow St,
Alameda, CA 94523-3772

NURSING RN/SLVNS, P/T
per day, 8am-5pm, S/NF
Fax resume 925-526-5262 or Call: 510-783-9830

NURSING

Telecare Garfield Neurobehavioral Center is a leading provider of healthcare for persons with developmental disorders. We currently have the following opportunities:

RNs/LVNs/CNAs
All Shifts

We offer Sign-on Bonuses and CNA certification!

All positions require CA licensure or certification. Excellent health benefits. 19 days paid vacation. 12 days paid time-off. Full-time employees (pro-rated for part-time). Visit our website at [telecarecorp.com](http://www.telecarecorp.com). For consideration, please fax your resume to: Garfield Neurobehavioral Center, 1451 28th Ave., Oakland, CA 94609. Tel: 510-533-6533. Fax: 510-533-6533. Telecare Corporation fosters diversity in the workforce. EOE/HMHR

TELECAR
CORPORATION
OFFICE ASSISTANT P/T entry-level position @ San Ramon firm. General office duties. Few hrs. Salary \$55,000/yr. Tel: 925-462-0532 or call (925) 865-1244

OFFICE ASST.

4 Day/20 hrs. P/T in charging, Victorian style office bldg in downtown Oakland. Informal, casual work env. Seeking mature-minded, resp. person to handle independent projects and variety of tasks. Some p/c, exp req'd. Inc. word processing, fax, file, phone, etc. Job: Case Manager. Case # 653 11th St. Oakland, CA 94607-3650

OFFICE ASST. FIT \$12/hr. Nonsmoking Livermore Inst. adq. exp. in office services & clerical support. Computer/lit. skills. Mon-Fri. Tel: 925-473-8965

OFFICE ASST.

4 Day/20 hrs. P/T in charging, Victorian style office bldg in downtown Oakland. Informal, casual work env. Seeking mature-minded, resp. person to handle independent projects and variety of tasks. Some p/c, exp req'd. Inc. word processing, fax, file, phone, etc. Job: Case Manager. Case # 653 11th St. Oakland, CA 94607-3650

OFFICE ASST. Asst. Librarian. Accts. pos. Mon-Fri. 30 hrs/wk. Microsoft Offc. Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint, mail merge, mailings, newsletter, promotions, filing, data entry, database management, car req. \$12/hr. Fax resume 925-743-8975

OFFICE ASST. Recpt. Brentwood. Part-time contractor seeks indv. w/gen. of skills. Bilingual. Tel: 925-462-0532

OFFICE CLERK. For family apartment complex in San Pablo Responsibilities include: rent collection, bank deposit, critical data entry, processing move-in/move-out reports, inspections, & more.

Must possess good clerical & communication skills. Please fax resume to Office, 5480 Leaven Avenue, San Jose, CA 95123, Fax 408-226-1436. EOE

OFFICE CLERK

P/T now. P/T later. Close to 140 - Nice o/c, friendly staff. Duties: w/c, ext. written/verbal skills, filing, phones, reception, port. exp. & general office skills. Fax resume 925-412-3248

OFFICE FLS/Clerk/Assistant Bright, motivated person for small W.C. law firm. Prof. w/c, ext. written/verbal skills, computer skills req'd. Ext. pref. Fax resume 925-293-5132

OFFICE: FIT/P/T. Answer phones, sched appts. Mon-Fri. Tel: 925-680-0907

OFFICE MANAGER

Alameda. Large preschool, strong background in preschool, multi-task, heavy phones, great working environment. Salary/Benefits: \$10-125K. Fax resume 925-544-2623

OFFICE MGR./SALES, Fax resume: 925-736-2503, phone 736-7529. Danville.

QUICK & HANDY THAT'S CLASSIFIED!

250 Help Wanted

OFFICE Mgr./Exec. Asst.

Expanding W.C. restaurant chain seeks team leader and individual workers, computer skills incl. Word & Excel. Must be self motivated, exceptional comm skills. Working directly w/CEO, overseeing multiple units. Experience in HR or P.R. exp. a plus. Fax resume to 925-637-7238

OFFICE Mgr./Purchaser P/T. Fast paced 3 person sales team. Order sign Co., order product track product, admin support, principal negotiator. Advanced Word, Quickbooks Pro or Outlook a must. Timeliness & accuracy a plus. Fax Res. (925) 743-8975

OFFICE

Please see our ad under Apartment Manager.

OPERATORS for answering service. Swing, graveyard, 8am-5pm. Fax 510-373-2268

OPTICAL: Busy Walnut Creek office looking for Optic Lab Technician and Optician. Tel: 925-345-5300

OPTICIAN, Dispensing
FIT/P/T. Experience req'd. Fax resume 925-937-1600

OPTOMETRIC ASST.
Pleasanton etc., 30 hrs/wk. Fax resume 925-462-2605

OUTREACH Worker. AIDS prevention, education, community. P/T. Bilingual Spang. Eng. Fax to Families Foundation. Tel: 925-360-0532

PARTICIPANT, Dispensing
FIT/P/T. Experience req'd. Fax resume 925-937-1600

PARTICIPANT, Journeyman lev. & tools. You must be a must. Fax resume 925-531-3302

PAINTER, Journeyman for Oakland Remodeler, auto repair, painting, drywall, etc. Tel: 510-533-1768

PAINTER/JOURNEYMAN Must have T.I. Exp. & valid CDL. Top pay. Immed. openings. Tel: 925-368-3022

PAINTERS APPRENTICE, Journeyman, willing to learn. Call between 7 & 8 am. Fax resume 925-368-3023

PAINTERS NEEDED by comittee contractor. Tel: 925-371-0552

PAINTERS WANTED: reliable, own transportation, great pay, great benefits. Tel: 925-691-4781

PLUMBER: Drivers Up. Construction exp. a. Drug Free Work Place. Tel: 925-370-7234 or 925-462-2605

PAINTERS: Well est. shop DMV Trans. Must know trade! Fax resume 925-930-0130

PAINTER: 5 yrs exp. Clean & reliable. Tel: 925-371-0552

PARKING Attendant FIT/P/T, DMV \$7.50 start, 50 hr. 18 yrs + top pay. Fax resume 925-691-4781

PARKING LOT SWEEPER Graveyard. Will train. Sun-Sat. Fax resume 925-530-4200

PAYROLL CLERK Linda Evans Fitness Ctrs. Full oriented indvl. w/ 2 yrs. exp. fax resume 925-530-4200

PLUMBERS: Trained joiner, fitting, welding co. Must own truck. Tel: 925-691-4781

PLUMBING: Apprentices and journeymen needed for local and Bay area work. Great pay. Fax resume 925-462-0532

PLUMBERS: Journeyman painter needed by comittee contractor. Tel: 925-371-0552

PLUMBERS: Journeyman painter needed by comittee contractor. Tel: 925-371-0552

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT On SITE MANAGER need exp. in property management. Section 8 property in Santa Rosa. Strong mktng. skills. Fax resume 925-630-5334

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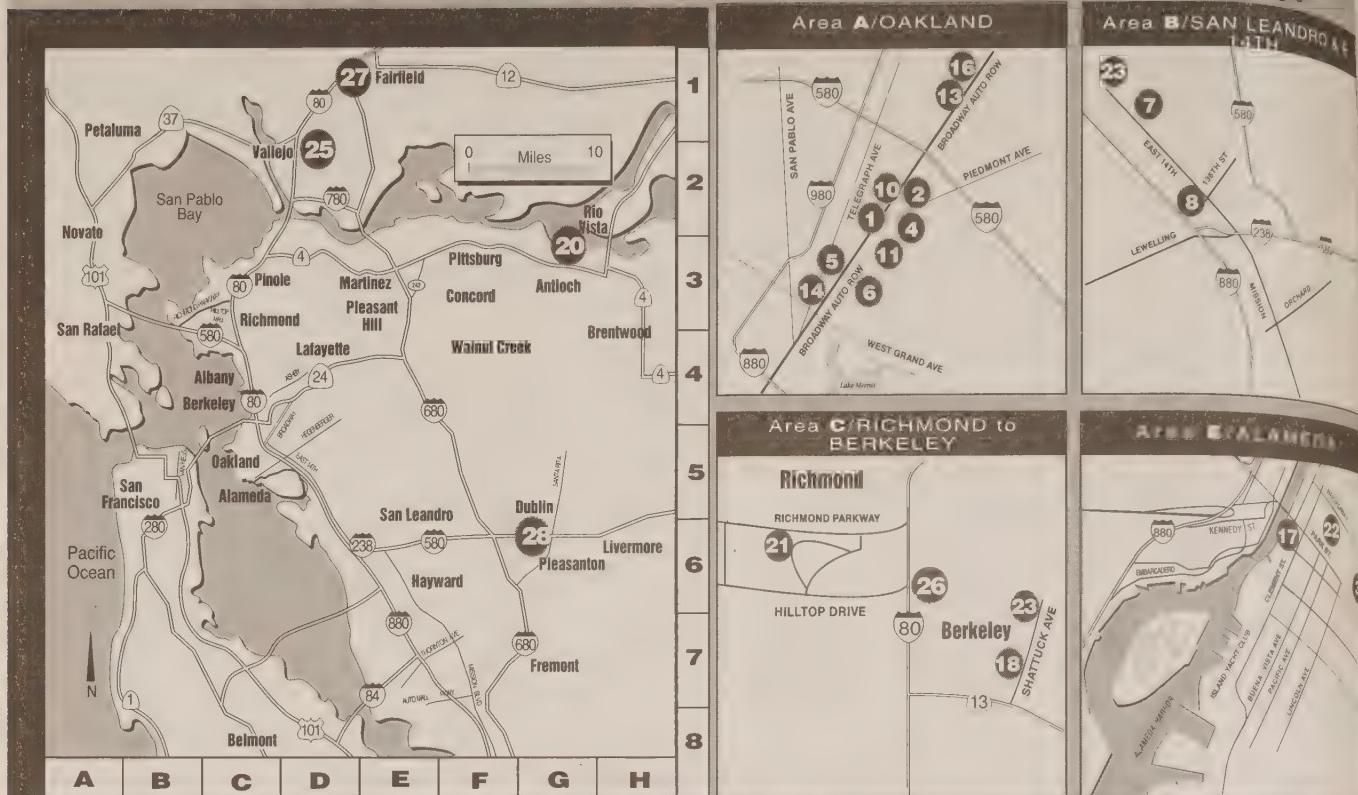
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Stockton pays homage to the tender, slender spear

BY REBECCA DEEPCHANDANI

STAFF WRITER

The first Stockton Asparagus Festival was held sixteen years ago and the instant, resounding success it met with came as something of a surprise to its organizers. Since then, it has been consistently recognized for excellence. Last year, Sunset magazine named the Stockton Asparagus Festival the Best Food Fest in the West.

Moreover, the arts and crafts show at the festival, overseen by the Stockton Arts Commission, is ranked among the top arts and crafts shows in the country. Only a fifth of the artists who apply as exhibitors are chosen.

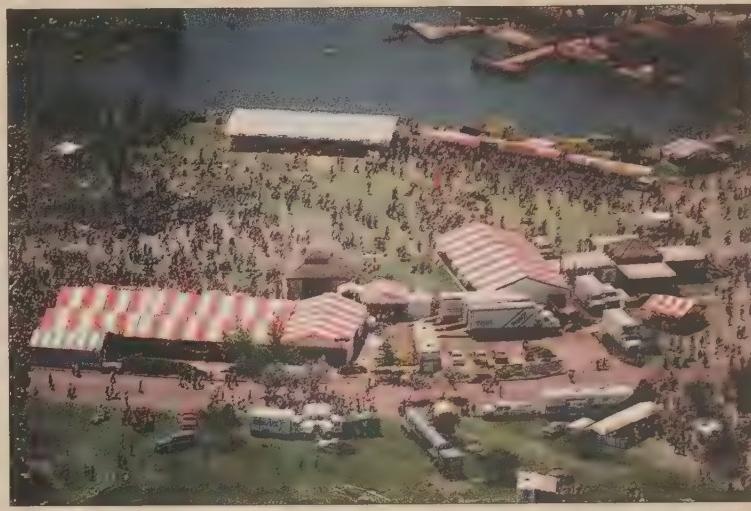
In addition to demonstration on the growing and cooking of asparagus, the fair showcases live performances of music and dance. The headlining band this year is ShaNaNa.

Canine feats of skill will be performed by the Skyy Dogs. The Got Milk Gravity Tour features daring feats on skateboards and BMX bikes.

An abundance of rides, games and craft projects are available for children.

There will also be a classic car show, a home and garden pavilion and a tech zone.

This year, weather permitting, hot air balloon rides will be offered on Friday and Saturday mornings only at a cost of \$5. for



STOCKTON ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL

A PANORAMA OF LAST YEAR'S ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL in Stockton. Sunset Magazine named this the best food festival in the west. The arts and crafts show is also top-notch in California. Along with a plethora of information regarding the slender, delicious vegetable, you can enjoy various forms of entertainment, from bands like ShaNaNa to daring feats performed by dogs, BMX bikers and skateboarders. Also, a car show, balloon rides, arts, crafts, a home and garden pavilion, fun for kids — the works.

Right, a demonstration on the best ways to grow and harvest asparagus.

Last year, Sunset magazine named the Stockton Asparagus Festival the Best Food Fest in the West.



STOCKTON ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL

See ASPARAGUS, Page 2

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Stalking a great spring veggie? Asparagus is your answer

KNIGHT RIDDER

If springtime is supposed to inspire new ideas, then thank goodness for asparagus.

It just began arriving — fresh from the farm — on my kitchen doorstep. Each box stirs me to action.

I have been creating with asparagus for as long as I have been cooking.

I love them all: jumbo, pencil-thin, purple, white or green.

It's a vegetable that needs neither introduction nor (when truly at its peak from March through April) much fuss to make it divine.

There are numerous ways of utilizing this wondrous veggie.

Of course, the way I remember it as a kid — out of a can and in a casserole — is not the way I know it today.

Now, I take the brilliant green stalks, quickly blanch them and drizzle them with light olive oil and

shaved parmesan cheese.

Or I might serve them with a fresh lemon-mayonnaise dipping sauce.

These are the more casual ways I enjoy asparagus. But it is a versatile veggie — equally at home in a lobster salad or as part of a simple vegetable crudite.

This crisp flexibility puts asparagus on chefs' vegetable A-list. It is relished in any dish we make — from soufflés to creamy asparagus soup.

The best size of asparagus is a matter of preference.

There are times when the dish I'm making requires a more petite look — as when I seek out tiny grilled asparagus for my prosciutto risotto.

Other times I'm looking for jumbo asparagus, as when I'm making a chilled asparagus salad with a blood-orange dressing.

Some folks insist that pencil-

sized asparagus are sweeter, but the jumbos are just as luscious when at their peak.

My personal favorite is a size right in between.

How much to trim asparagus depends on the woodiness of the vegetable. Right now, they shouldn't need much peeling at all. If the bottoms of green asparagus are white or purplish, then they are probably woody.

In this case, I snap off the bottom and peel the skin lightly until I see the moisture forming on the stalk.

Peeling asparagus also helps each stalk cook evenly throughout — especially when grilling. More importantly, perhaps, it gives them a fancy look.

Woody or not, I often take a minute to peel my stalks to upscale the meal.

This never substitutes for good-tasting asparagus, however. I al-

ways make sure the tips are tight and the stalks are firm, bright in color and not in any way wrinkled.

In the spring months, I love to eat outside with — forgive me — the birds singing and the jasmine blooming.

Fish and asparagus are a natural together, especially when barbecued.

A grilled piece of salmon with sweet-smoky asparagus and a crisp white wine is a meal that truly stimulates all your senses.

Nothing could be easier than grilling asparagus.

It makes an easy hot side dish or as part of a warm antipasto plate.

Either way, I take medium-sized

asparagus, about six per person, peel, blanch and brush them with a spicy young, cold-pressed virgin green olive oil, such as Bertolli or Novizio.

I sprinkle the oiled stalks with sea salt and cracked pepper and place them on a hot grill — crosswise so they don't fall through the grates.

I roll them gently to assure an even light charring — cooking until they bend slightly and are tender, but not mushy.

If serving hot, I take them straight from the grill, put them on serving plates and squeeze a little lemon on them and whatever fish I might be cooking.

The fish that I most enjoy cook-

ing is snapper. True red snapper is one of the lightest, whitest and least fish around.

You can find it, or order it, at quality fish markets. When I'm grilling, I apply the same method of seasoning the fish that I do with Novizio.

It doesn't need a lot of season-

— olive oil, sea salt, cracked pepper and lemon is all it takes.

A nice finishing touch is to grill the lemon halves — just cut them on the last minute.

I put the fish on a nice big platter, the warm, juicy lemons and the asparagus across the middle of the table to eat and the Primavera at last!

Cat Cora is the executive de-

Postino in Lafayette

Asparagus

FROM PAGE 1

three passengers. You can also pose for photos with Lassie or see the Budweiser Clydesdales clomping by.

See the box below for details or visit www.asparagustest.com.

From the California Asparagus Commission (www.calasparagus.com), here are some recipes:

Rolled Steak Stuffed with California Asparagus

3 to 4 lb. flank steak, butterflied, opened

1 lb. fresh asparagus

2 tablespoons horseradish

2 tablespoons minced garlic

Spread 2 lbs. horseradish and 2 lbs. minced garlic on the steak. Arrange spears in a single row over spread. Roll tightly and tie. Roast in oven at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Remove from oven and let stand 10 minutes before slicing.

Asparagus Guacamole
4 cups (1 lb.) cut, trimmed, fresh asparagus or 4 Cups (2 pkg. 10 oz. Each) frozen, cut Asparagus

1 small garlic clove, minced
2 tsp. lime juice
1/4 cup canned, chopped green chills
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cumin
2 tbs. finely chopped onion
1/2 cup chopped, seeded tomato

Cook asparagus in small amount of water until tender. Drain well and cool. In a food processor, process asparagus and next five ingredients until mixture is smooth (30 seconds).

Scrape bowl frequently. Remove from food processor and stir in onion and tomato. Chill thoroughly before serving with tortilla chips, cut vegetables, chicken or seafood.

Fresh Asparagus Baked in Wine Sauce

Put cooked asparagus in shallow buttered baking dish.

Melt 1/4 cup butter, add 1/4 cup white wine, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. pepper.

Pour over asparagus and sprinkle the top with 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. Bake uncovered at 425 degrees for 15 min.

Chicken Oriental

4 tbs. salad oil

1 med. onion, sliced
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 tbs. sugar 1 lb. boneless chicken (white or dark meat)
1 red or green bell pepper thinly sliced
1/2 lb. Jumbo asparagus
2 tbs. soy sauce

Heat the oil in a Chinese wok or electric skillet. Cut the chicken into one-inch chunks and stir-fry until done. Remove from wok and set aside.

Cut the jumbo asparagus into two-inch strips. Add the remaining onion, bell pepper, pepper and sugar cook, stirring until the vegetables are crisp-tender.

Add the asparagus, then the chicken. Sprinkle with soy sauce cover and cook until mixture begins to steam.

Reduce the heat and simmer for about 12 minutes. Serve over rice. Makes 6 servings.

California Spring Jumbo Asparagus, Papaya, Shrimp and Pasta Salad

1 lb. jumbo asparagus

1 med. papaya halved, seeded and peeled

1/2 cup light sour cream

1/4 cup papaya or mango nectar

1 1/2 tbs. bottled mango chutney, grated peel of 1/2 lemon

6 oz. dry fusilli, rotelle or other curly pasta, cooked, rinsed and drained (about 3 cups cooked)

1/2 lb. small shelled and cooked shrimp

1/4 cup green onions

8 oz. Oak or bibb lettuce leaves.

Trim or break off asparagus spears at tender point. Rinse and cut into two-inch diagonal pieces. Cook asparagus until crisp-tender, about 3 to 5 minutes. Do not overcook.

Drain and rinse under cold water. Combine chicken broth, cornstarch and soy sauce and set aside.

Stir-fry halved scallops and mushrooms in oil with garlic until scallops are just cooked through, about 4 minutes. Stir in cornstarch mixture.

Cook, stirring, until sauce thickens. Add drained asparagus, tomatoes and green onions heat. Pepper to taste. Serve over rice.

Makes 4 servings

Fresh Asparagus Casserole

1 1/2 cup water

1 1/2 cup chicken stock

1 tsp. salt

1 lb. asparagus

2 tbs. butter

1 small onion

3 cloves minced garlic

Cut asparagus into 1 inch pieces. Remove seeds and cut half of papaya into eight 12 thin, lengthwise slices. Chill. Cut remaining half into bite-size pieces.

In large bowl, combine sour cream, nectar, chutney and lemon peel. Add cooled pasta, mix well. Stir in asparagus and papaya pieces, shrimp and green onions. Chill and set aside 12 spears.

Cut remaining asparagus into 1 inch pieces. Remove seeds and cut half of papaya into eight 12 thin, lengthwise slices. Chill. Cut remaining half into bite-size pieces.

In large bowl, combine sour cream, nectar, chutney and lemon peel. Add cooled pasta, mix well. Stir in asparagus and papaya pieces, shrimp and green onions. Chill and set aside 12 spears.

To serve, spoon pasta mixture on lettuce leaves and arrange papaya and asparagus spears. Garnish with lemon twists or wedges and fresh mint, if desired.

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Makes 4 servings

1 cup uncooked long grain rice
1/4 cup diced red bell pepper
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Mix all ingredients, pour into 2 quart casserole and cover. Bake in oven at 400 degrees for 20 minutes. Stir and then bake another 20 minutes.

Steamed Fresh Asparagus with Red Pepper Sauce

Sauté finely chopped red bell pepper and red onion in 2 lbs. butter. Add 1 can chicken stock and simmer for 5 minutes. Put into blender and puree. Pour back into pan and thicken with corn starch and water mixture to desired consistency.

Springtime Stir-Fry with Scallops and Jumbo Asparagus

1/2 lb. fresh asparagus

1/4 cup reduced sodium-chicken broth

1 tbs. cornstarch

1 tsp. light soy sauce

1 tsp. sesame oil

1/4 lb. sea scallops

1 cup sliced button mushrooms

3 to 4 oyster mushrooms

1 med. clove garlic

1 cup cherry tomato halves

2-3 thin green onions

2 cups hot cooked rice (no salt added)

Trim or break off asparagus spears at tender point. Rinse and cut into two-inch diagonal pieces. Cook asparagus until crisp-tender, about 3 to 5 minutes. Do not overcook.

Drain and rinse under cold water. Combine chicken broth, cornstarch and soy sauce and set aside.

Stir-fry halved scallops and mushrooms in oil with garlic until scallops are just cooked through, about 4 minutes. Stir in cornstarch mixture.

Cook, stirring, until sauce thickens. Add drained asparagus, tomatoes and green onions heat. Pepper to taste. Serve over rice.

Makes 4 servings

Sesame Asparagus Salad

2 lb. fresh asparagus cut into 1 1/2" pieces

Cover in salted boiling water.

Cook until tender. Rinse immediately in cold water to stop cooking process. Pat dry.

Mix 4 tbs. soy sauce,

1 tbs. honey,

2 tbs. sesame seed oil,

2 tbs. toasted sesame seeds

and pour over asparagus. Chill 30 minutes and serve.

Asparagus Polonaise

2 lb. fresh asparagus

6 tbs. butter

1/4 cup dry bread crumbs

1 large hard cooked egg, chopped

1 tbs. lemon juice

Cover in salted boiling water.

Cook until tender. Rinse immediately in cold water to stop cooking process. Pat dry.

Mix 4 tbs. soy sauce,

1 tbs. honey,

2 tbs. sesame seed oil,

2 tbs. toasted sesame seeds

and pour over asparagus. Chill 30 minutes and serve.

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Relaxed recipes: Sunday Brunch for a party of eight

THE WASHINGTON POST

I'll never forget the worst meal I ever gave. It was 1969, my husband and I had just gotten married. I decided to have a big Sunday brunch, and I wanted it to be fabulous.

My first mistake was to invite 20 people I hardly knew.

The second mistake was to spend a week getting ready, so I was exhausted before the first guest arrived.

Worst of all, I decided to make a fresh omelet for each guest. Was I crazy?

As each person arrived, I had to run to the kitchen to fix a drink. Then everyone sat in the living room while I spent what seemed to be hours at the stove making omelets, one at a time.

There wasn't a sound from the living room — no talking, no laughing. But how could there be?

I was the hostess but I was in the kitchen!

I knew immediately what I'd done wrong. A good party is not about the food, it's about the people.

Now I invite friends I really want to see. I make sure the music is fun, to get things going.

I plan a menu that is more about assembling food than cooking.

And finally, I make sure everything is ready before my friends arrive so I can be a guest, too.

That fancy brunch has evolved into Sunday breakfast. I have hot coffee in thermoses out where people can help themselves.

The table is set with baskets of

fresh bread, sour-cream coffee cake and raspberry and honey butters, and there are big platters of fresh fruit.

Scrambled eggs and asparagus are passed, and we're all together at the table. We have a fun, relaxed morning, and I'm happy to have the time to spend with people I love.

Note: This special-order bread is from E.A.T. in New York City. You can substitute any bread you like.

Roasted Asparagus With Scrambled Eggs

(8 servings)

Scrambled eggs made with a dash of milk and some salt and pepper are a Sunday morning staple. Made with cream and Parmesan cheese, these eggs are a bit richer, and certainly fit for company.

Cooking eggs over low heat ensures that they will be creamy and tender.

2 pounds asparagus

Olive oil

1 1/4 teaspoons kosher salt, plus additional for sprinkling

Freshly ground black pepper to taste

1/2 cup (2 ounces) freshly grated Parmesan cheese

4 tablespoons unsalted butter

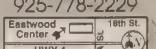
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16 extra-large eggs
1 1/4 cups half-and-half

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Break off the tough ends of the asparagus and, if they're thick, peel them. Place the asparagus on a baking sheet, drizzle with oil, then toss to coat the asparagus completely.

Spread the asparagus in a single layer and sprinkle liberally with salt and pepper. Roast the asparagus for 15 to 20 minutes, until tender but still crisp.

Sprinkle with the cheese and return to the oven for 5 minutes, or until the cheese melts.

Meanwhile, melt 2 tablespoons of the butter in a large skillet over low heat. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, salt, half-and-half and pepper to taste.

Pour the eggs into the skillet and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon constantly at first, then frequently, until desired doneness, up to 20 minutes.

Remove the skillet from the heat.

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add the remaining 2 tablespoons butter and stir gently until melted

Season the eggs with salt and pepper to taste and serve immediately with the roasted asparagus.

Per serving: 318 calories, 19 gm fat, 5 gm carbohydrates, 24 gm protein, 461 mg cholesterol, 11 gm saturated fat, 345 mg sodium, 1 gm dietary fiber

Sour Cream Coffee Cake

(8 to 10 servings)

This is the ultimate breakfast treat. My goal was a homemade version of a Drake's cake, but better. As if the cake wasn't delicious enough, I decided to drizzle maple icing on the top and give it an ex-

tra-special flavor. This recipe can also be made into sour-cream coffee cake muffins.

If the eggs are cold, place the whole eggs in a bowl of warm water for 5 minutes before cracking them.

For the cake

2 1/2 cups cake flour (may substitute 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour plus 1/4 cup cornstarch), plus additional for the pan

2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/2 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature,

See BREAKFAST Page 4

WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?

- Roasted Asparagus With Scrambled Eggs
- Sour Cream Coffee Cake
- Tropical Smoothies
- Ell's Health Bread (see note)
- Raspberry Butter
- Cinnamon Honey Butter
- Fresh Fruit
- Coffee

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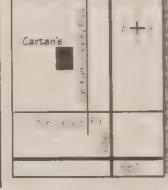


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<p

Breakfast

FROM PAGE 3

plus additional for the pan
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
3 extra-large eggs, at room temperature
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 1/4 cups sour cream

For the streusel:

3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, cold, cut into pieces
3/4 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

For the glaze:

1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons maple syrup

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour a 10-inch Bundt (tube) pan, tapping to remove the excess flour.

For the cake: In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed, beat the butter and granulated sugar until light, 4 to 5 minutes.

Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating until incorporated after each addition.

Add the vanilla and sour cream and beat until incorporated. Reduce the speed to low, add the flour mix-

ture and mix just until combined. Using a wooden spoon, mix to ensure the flour mixture is completely combined.

For the streusel: In a medium bowl, combine the brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, salt and butter, using your fingers to pinch it together to form a crumble. Add the walnuts, if using, and mix to combine.

Spoon half of the reserved cake batter into the prepared pan.

Using a knife, spread it evenly. Sprinkle with 3/4 cup streusel. Spoon the remaining batter over the top, spreading it evenly, and scatter the remaining streusel over the top.

Bake the cake in the preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes, until a tester inserted in the center comes out clean.

Transfer the pan to a wire rack to cool for at least 30 minutes. Carefully transfer the cake, streusel-side up, onto a serving plate.

For the glaze: In a large bowl, whisk together the confectioners' sugar and maple syrup, adding a few drops of water if necessary, until it forms a runny glaze.

Using a fork or spoon, drizzle as much glaze as you like over the cake.

Per serving (based on 10): 563 calories, 6 g protein, 80 g carbohydrates, 25 g fat, 124 mg cholesterol, 15 gm saturated fat, 373 mg sodium, 1 gm dietary fiber

Tropical Smoothies

(8 servings)
I serve these smoothies instead of orange juice for Sunday breakfast.

You can substitute raspberries for the mango and papaya to make banana-raspberry smoothies.

When mangoes and papayas are ripe, they smell ripe.

The mango and papaya should also be soft to the touch and the banana a nice yellow with brown speckles.

2 mangoes, peeled, seeded and chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
2 papayas, peeled, seeded and chopped (about 3 cups)

3 ripe bananas, sliced
3/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice

1 1/2 cups skim milk
3/4 cup nonfat yogurt
1 tablespoon honey
1 1/2 cups water
6 cups ice

In a blender, combine 1/2 cup of the mango, 1 cup of the papaya, 1 banana, 1/4 cup of the orange juice, 1/2 cup of the milk, 1/4 cup of the yogurt, 1 teaspoon of the honey, 1/2 cup of the water and 2 cups of the ice and process until smooth. Transfer to a pitcher and refrigerate. Repeat twice more.

Serve immediately.

Per serving: 151 calories, 4 g protein, 35 g carbohydrates, 1 g fat, 15 gm saturated fat, 25 mg sodium, trace saturated

fat, 45 mg sodium, 3 gm dietary fiber

Raspberry Butter

(Makes 1 cup)
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
1/2 cup raspberry preserves
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter, preserves and salt until combined. Serve at room temperature.

Per 1-tablespoon serving: 78 calories, trace protein, 6 g carbohydrates, 6 g fat, 16 mg cholesterol, 4 g saturated fat, 22 mg sodium, trace dietary fiber.

Cinnamon Honey Butter

(Makes 3/4 cup)
Clover honey is from bees that visit only clover; lavender honey is from bees that visit only lavender flowers. Single-flower honeys are usually the best quality.

4 ounces (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
3 tablespoons honey
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter, honey, cinnamon and salt until combined. Serve at room temperature.

Per 1-tablespoon serving: 88 calories, trace protein, 4 gm carbohydrates, 8 g fat, 22 mg cholesterol, 5 gm saturated fat, 25 mg sodium, trace dietary fiber.

THE FOOD GODDESS

Do not spray misters for me

BY THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION STAFF
COX NEWS SERVICE

Q: Does anyone else hate those rain machines that "mist" vegetables in the grocery store as much as I do?

A: Either the produce managers were sold a bill of goods by the manufacturers of these devices, who convinced them that consumers really prefer buying wet vegetables so they can have the extra step of drying and repackaging unless they're to be used immediately, or it's a plot . . .

A: We interrupt Katharine Geier's multi-part question with a figurative bucket of cold water.

Hers is a litany of concerns, most of which your Food Goddess had not yet pondered.

Previously, in fact, F.G.'s annoyance had been merely that unheralded blasts of cold spray did a number on her crushed velvet robes.

Well, it is true that more

than once since supermarkets began installing automatic misting equipment mid-'80s, she has worried the purpose was to add weight of wildly expensive leaf lettuces sold by the pound.

But then the '80s ended and she mellowed. Today, with an estimated percent of all grocery sales in the United States using automated

than once since supermarkets began installing automatic misting equipment mid-'80s, she has worried the purpose was to add weight of wildly expensive leaf lettuces sold by the pound.

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fat, 45 mg sodium, 3 gm dietary fiber

Raspberry Butter

(Makes 1 cup)

8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature

1/2 cup raspberry preserves

1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter, preserves and salt until combined. Serve at room temperature.

Per 1-tablespoon serving: 78

calories, trace protein, 6 g carbohydrates, 6 g fat, 16 mg cholesterol,

4 g saturated fat, 22 mg sodium, trace dietary fiber.

Cinnamon Honey Butter

(Makes 3/4 cup)

Clover honey is from bees that visit only clover; lavender honey is from bees that visit only lavender flowers. Single-flower honeys are usually the best quality.

4 ounces (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature

3 tablespoons honey

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter, honey, cinnamon and salt until combined. Serve at room temperature.

Per 1-tablespoon serving: 88

calories, trace protein, 4 gm carbohydrates, 8 g fat, 22 mg cholesterol,

5 gm saturated fat, 25 mg sodium, trace dietary fiber.

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WINNER'S CIRCLE WESTERN WEAR

What's asparagus without sauce?

SUNSET COOKBOOK OF FAVORITE RECIPES

Blender Hollandaise

3 egg yolks at room temperature

1 1/8 tablespoons lemon juice
3/4 cup butter or margarine

1 tablespoon hot water

1/4 tablespoon salt

Dash of cayenne

1 teaspoon prepared mustard

Combine egg yolks and lemon juice in the blender.

Melt butter and heat until it bubbles — don't brown. Add 1 tablespoon hot water to egg yolks and lemon juice; turn blender on high speed and immediately pour in the hot butter in a steady stream (this should take about five seconds).

Add salt, cayenne and mustard, whirl until well blended — about 30 seconds.

Makes about 2 cups sauce.

Double-Boiler Hollandaise

You may prefer this curdle-

proof recipe because it utilizes whole eggs rather than just the egg yolks as most Hollandaise recipes do.

Serve over asparagus, green beans, broccoli or cabbage wedges, or as a dipping sauce for artichokes.

1/4 lb. butter or margarine

2 eggs

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1/8 teaspoon cayenne

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup hot water

Melt butter in top of double boiler.

Beat eggs until blended and gradually pour the hot butter over the eggs, beating constantly with a wire whip.

Return butter-egg mixture to top of double boiler and, stirring, cook over hot water until thickened.

Add lemon juice, cayenne, salt and hot water and stir until blended.

Makes 1 cup sauce.

Goddess

FROM PAGE 4

easier to remember that as produce sits in store bins it is losing moisture — and thus water weight — which the produce mister is replenishing, much like store employees had before automation.

One way or another, misting means the produce stays attractive and fresher longer so there's less waste, and — by trickling down logic — that means lower prices.

According to the Food Marketing Institute, customers say they choose their grocery store based on these factors: the produce section, the meat section and store's general cleanliness.

This year, in its annual report to be released next month, produce is the customer's priority No. 1.

"Obviously, retailers want their produce section to be the premier attraction and the misting machines help give the produce a fresh look and also that feel, as the consumer goes by."

It gives them a certain assurance

that the produce is fresh," says institute spokesman Todd Hultquist.

It is considered a strategic investment, he said. "They wouldn't be doing it if the cost was more than the benefit gained."

In fact, industry leader KES Science & Technology, based in Kennesaw, says automatic produce misting systems are so accepted, the company doesn't even have to educate store managers about cost effectiveness. Further, since they've been around more than 15 years, the cost of the systems has become "definitely affordable," according to KES marketing director Kris Morlan.

The Produce Marketing Association, however, raises a customer objection in addition to yours, Katharine, citing research showing that most customers just don't like it when the misters get their hands wet.

In response, some stores sound alerts just before the misters spray, including KES' patented Misty Tunes — such as thunder and lightning effects used as misting alerts. Others provide paper towels. Rarest of all, some continue to rely on the time-honored tradition of having store employees mist the "wet produce" by hand.

But as always, if you do not like automatic misters, you have a duty to tell the store manager about your concerns and to tell them why you will be taking your business elsewhere.

RECIPE SWAP

Mary Atkins of Cartersville, Ga., lost an easy-to-make Crusty Coconut Pie recipe she thought would be published here before. We couldn't find it in the files, but readers shared lots of ideas:

some a standard filling in a pastry shell; others that make their own crust by adding flour or biscuit mix to the filling ingredients. We like this one, because it has no crust and just five ingredients — a rare, easy-as-pie spring treat.

DESSERT

Crusty Coconut Pie
Makes 8 servings Preparation time: 5 minutes Cooking time: 30 minutes

1 1/2 cups flaked coconut

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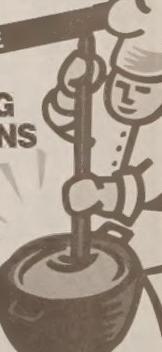
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Low-fat cooking: Creamy Chicken and Mushrooms

■ Roasted Asparagus on the side, and Ice Cream with Praline Sauce for dessert

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Here's a stylish dinner menu to serve four.

The main dish is Creamy Chicken and Mushrooms, which sounds rich and does indeed taste great but fits in the low-fat category because it has less than 7 grams of fat per serving.

Make roasted asparagus to serve with the chicken; prepare ice cream with praline sauce for dessert and — hold your breath — you can have it all ready in 30 minutes or less.

The menu and recipes by Tamar Haspel are featured in "Cooking Light" magazine's April issue, along with a game plan to streamline the cook's progress.

Creamy Chicken and Mushrooms

(Total preparation and cooking time 25 minutes)

2 cups uncooked medium egg noodles

Cooking spray

1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, cut into bite-size pieces

1 teaspoon olive oil

1/2 cup chopped shallots

8-ounce package presliced mushrooms

1/2 cup dry white wine

1 cup fat-free milk

2 teaspoons all-purpose flour

1/3 cup (3 ounces) spreadable cheese with garlic and herbs

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Chopped fresh parsley (optional)

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat

While pasta cooks, heat a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat. Add chicken, sauté 4 minutes, or

Make roasted asparagus to serve with the chicken; prepare ice cream with praline sauce for dessert and — hold your breath — you can have it all ready in 30 minutes or less.

until done. Remove chicken from pan; set aside.

Heat oil in pan over medium-high heat. Add shallots; sauté 1 minute. Add mushrooms; sauté 4 minutes. Add wine, and cook for 3 minutes, or until liquid almost evaporates.

Combine milk and flour in a small bowl; stir well with a whisk. Add milk mixture to pan; cook 3 minutes or until slightly thick. Add chicken, cheese, 2 tablespoons parsley, and pepper; reduce heat, and simmer for 3 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Serve over pasta; sprinkle with parsley, if desired.

Makes 4 servings (serving size 1/4 cup chicken mixture and 1/4 cup pasta).

Nutrition information per serving: 338 cal. (18 percent from fat), 6.9 g fat (2.5 g saturated fat), 37.1 g pro., 31.3 g carb., 2.9 g fiber, 101 mg chol., 241 mg sodium.

Roasted Asparagus

1 pound trimmed asparagus

1 tablespoon olive oil

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Preheat oven to 400 F. Toss asparagus with oil, salt and pepper; bake for 5 minutes.

Ice Cream With Praline Sauce

1/2 cup fat-free caramel sauce

2 tablespoons chopped, toasted pecans

Low-fat chocolate ice cream

Combine caramel sauce and pecans; serve over ice cream.

Game Plan

Prepare ingredients while water for egg noodles comes to a boil.

- Cut chicken into bite-size pieces.
- Chop shallots and parsley.
- Wash and trim asparagus.
- Chop and toast pecans.
- Roast asparagus in oven while chicken cooks.
- Prepare praline sauce.
- Remove ice cream from freezer just before serving meal.



RANDY MAYOR/AP/CONTRIBUTED

CREAMY CHICKEN MUSHROOM sounds rich and does indeed taste great, but fits in the low-fat category with under 7 grams of fat per serving. The recipe by Tamar Haspel is featured in Cooking Light magazine's April issue.

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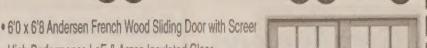
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